

Iranian missile attack damages Cypriot tanker

3 crewmen die in blaze, 14 injured

ABU DHABI, UAE (Agencies) — The casualty toll in the Cypriot tanker blaze has risen to three dead, one missing, and 14 crewmen injured, United Arab Emirates port officials reported Friday.

They said that one of injured crewmen was in critical condition. The 30,000-ton Cypriot tanker "Wise" was reported ablaze as a result of a missile blast fired by an Iranian helicopter gunship Thursday.

The missile hit the accommodations quarters, as the vessel was sailing at a point between Qatar and the UAE marine shipping executives said.

It was en route to Australia with 27,000 tons of gasoline from Bahrain at the time of the attack, they said.

Crew member Boukouranis Georgios Spyridon, 42, was confirmed to have died instantly in the attack, when three others were reported missing.

Dutch and Danish salvage tugboats, along with UAE helicopter and rescue boats rushed to the rescue of the blazing tanker.

The survivors were plucked from the tanker and taken to hospitals here. The captain, Konstantinos Gerassimos Christoforos, 48, remained aboard the tanker to supervise the rescue operation.

Three of his crew, who included a female radio operator, moved to the tugboats to help battle the fire, according to maritime salvage officers here.

Two "charred bodies" were recovered late Thursday. This reduced the number of missing crewmen to one and the confirmed fatalities to three, they said.

Officials were unable to identify the two bodies, which were "burned beyond recognition," according to port sources in contact with the ship managers, the Piraeus-based Bluebird Maritime Co. Ltd.

The three missing crewmen were identified by the company as Greek nationals Vekousis Elias Georgios, 26, Mehmet Ahmet Ahmet, 28, and Kasim Kadir Veli, 23.

One of the injured identified as Chasiotis Vasilios Christos, 27, was reported in critical condition in intensive care at the Zayed Military Hospital here.

The newspaper Al Itihad, said a UAE rescue boat reached the

tanker only 60 minutes after receiving the distress call.

"The UAE rescue force managed to contain the fire and avoid a disaster had the fire reached the 27,000 tons of gasoline in the tanker," one unidentified salvage executive told the paper.

It quoted survivors as saying that two Iranian military helicopters overflew the tanker, with one of them hovering low and firing a missile which tore through the accommodations rooms and ignited a fire.

The Wise was the fourth commercial ship to have been raided by Iranian military aircraft since Sunday, in apparent retaliation for the Iraqi attacks on four tankers ferrying crude oil from the Persian Gulf to the makeshift storage farm on Sirri Island, 560 km south of Kharg.

Meanwhile, Iraq said its warplanes accurately hit "a large naval target" — its usual term for a large merchant ship of tanker — near the Iranian coast Thursday night.

A military spokesman said the attack was at 7:30 p.m. (1630 GMT).

There was no confirmation of the report from independent sources.

Sudanese troops 'repulse rebel attacks'

KHARTOUM (R) — Government troops in Sudan repulsed rebel attacks on several villages near the Ethiopian border this week, an armed forces weekly has reported.

The magazine said the army repelled an attack against the town of Kurmuk on Tuesday by 2,000 rebels using artillery mounted on jeeps. No casualties were reported.

It said inhabitants of Abu Gubaba village, Kordofan province,

staged marches in protest against the deaths of 25 people in nearby Halfon during a rebel raid last month.

The magazine said rebel leader John Garang, who heads the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), had increased the fighting in an attempt to "create instability" and hinder general elections scheduled for next month.

Khartoum said on Monday it was ready to discuss peace, but Col. Garang immediately ann-

ounced on rebel radio that he rejected a ceasefire to end the three-year-old bush war.

The Sudanese National Alliance for Salvation, a coalition of political parties, said Thursday it had agreed on the formation of its delegation to talks in Ethiopia this month with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, the SPLA's political wing.

Rebel radio has reported that the rebels and a government delegation will hold more talks in Addis Ababa this month after a first round between Feb. 5 and 25.

Uganda to mediate

Sudan's Foreign Minister Ibrahim Taha Ayoub was quoted Thursday as saying the new Ugandan government had offered to mediate an end to the three-year-old rebellion in southern Sudan.

He told the Abu Dhabi daily Al Itihad in an interview in Addis Ababa that Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni had close personal relations with Col. Garang, who has rejected Khartoum's appeals for peace talks.

Mr. Museveni was "ready to mediate between him (Garang) and the central government," he said. "We showed our acceptance and he promised to contact Garang to open the doors to a direct dialogue."

Mr. Ayoub said Sudanese Prime Minister Ali Gazouli Dafallah would visit Uganda for talks which would include the presence in Khartoum of ousted Ugandan President Tito Okello.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New Arabic paper appears in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — An new Arabic-language Palestinian newspaper appeared in East Jerusalem Friday and its first editorials indicated it would follow a moderate line. Al Nahar is due to become the fifth daily aimed at Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip but will be published weekly during an initial trial period. The newspaper, a 24-page tabloid, is published by businessman Osman Halak, who will be editor-in-chief. He told the Jerusalem Post newspaper that the paper would reflect the views of the "silent majority" of Palestinians supporting peace.

Abu Nidal meets freed followers

BEIRUT (AP) — Abu Nidal, whose followers staged the Dec. 27 attacks on Rome and Vienna airports, has met with three of his men released by France and Portugal, a published statement said Friday. The statement by Abu Nidal's Al Fatah Revolutionary Council said the Palestinian leader met in an undisclosed location with Youssef Al Awad, Hafeez Hasani and Khaled Assad shortly after the release of the three. The statement was published by Beirut's independent An Nahar daily, which said it was distributed in Beirut Thursday. Al Awad was accused of assassinating Issam Sartawi, an aide of Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat, in Lisbon. He was released last month. Hasani and Assad were convicted of murdering the PLO's representative in Paris, Izziddin Kalak. They were released by French authorities last month after having served half of their prison terms.

Egypt tests modernised Soviet missiles

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's air defence units have tested a batch of old Soviet surface-to-air missiles which have been upgraded locally during exercises attended by Defence Minister Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala. The missiles included SAM-2 and SAM-6 missiles bought from the Soviet Union in the 1960s and modernised by the Egyptians to increase their range and capability with the help of Western technology, Abu Ghazala told journalists. Since breaking with Moscow in 1972, Egypt has depended on the West, mostly the United States, for its arms supplies. Abu Ghazala said Egypt was saving money by modernising old equipment because while a new air-defence battalion cost \$48 million, the upgrading of old missiles cost only \$2.4 million.

Austria and Syria to cooperate on security

VIENNA (R) — Austria and Syria on Friday agreed to cooperate on anti-terrorist measures, the Foreign Ministry announced. The move follows attacks by gunmen at Vienna and Rome airports last December.

Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz and visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara reached an accord in principle, the spokesman said. Details would be settled later with the Interior Ministry, which is in charge of security.

Austrian authorities say the three gunmen who carried out the attack at Vienna's Schwechat airport had travelled from Syria on faked Tunisian passports.

At a press briefing, Mr. Shara reaffirmed Damascus had nothing to do with either the attack here or at Rome Fiumicino airport, in which a total of 18 people were killed.

He said Syria had allowed the radical Palestinian guerrilla chief Abu Nidal to maintain an office in Damascus, but stressed they were unarmed political representatives. The United States has blamed Abu Nidal for both airport raids.

Shultz urges U.S. aid to 'friends in Mideast'

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Secretary of State George Shultz has asked a House panel to approve President Reagan's request for economic and military aid to America's friends in the Middle East and South Asia.

Mr. Shultz testified to the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Foreign Operations — in a prepared statement he submitted for the record but did not read — that prior transfusions of foreign aid have been used effectively by friendly governments worldwide to promote both internal and regional stability.

He provided regional examples: "Israel has made significant progress in stabilising its economy since last summer... The combined impact of new fiscal and monetary measures on inflation has been dramatic."

"In 1985, the Egyptian government drew up a 13-point reform programme. It raised prices for agricultural commodities, for example, and for a wide range of consumer items."

Following is the text of Middle East portions of Mr. Shultz's statement:

The Middle East remains an important focus of attention. Profoundly committed to Israel's security, the U.S. has sought to strengthen and enhance its relationship with this important partner. At the same time, we have sought to nurture our relationships with the moderate

U.N. aide tours UNIFIL positions

BEIRUT (AP) — U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Mark Gouding toured U.N. peace-keeping forces in South Lebanon Friday, a day after Israeli gunners shelled 10 villages in the region, killing a civilian.

U.N. spokesman Timur Goksel said four other civilians were wounded in Thursday's three-hour bombardment by tanks and mortars from positions held by the Israelis and their militia allies, the "South Lebanon Army" (SLA).

A few rounds crashed on the fringes of the southern port of Tyre. But Goksel said there were no casualties or damage reported in the city of 60,000 people.

He said the hardest hit targets were the Shi'ite Muslim villages of Tibnine, Aitazott, Hadatha, Shakra and Zibika in the zone policed by the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, or UNIFIL.

Twenty-six houses and one school were damaged, he added.

Security sources said the barrage apparently was a retaliation for Shi'ite attacks against Israel's self-designated "security belt" that runs north along the border.

A few hours before the shelling began, three SLA militiamen were wounded in a roadside bomb explosion near Bint Jbeil in the "security zone" that Israel carved out last June, the sources said. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

An officer of the mainly Falangist SLA was killed when a Soviet-made Katyusha rocket he was trying to dismantle exploded in his face in the security zone, the sources said.

An Israeli soldier and an SLA militiaman were wounded in the incident near Ainata village an hour after the Bint Jbeil blast, the sources added.

Mr. Gouding met senior UNIFIL officers at the force's headquarters in the Lebanese border town of Naqurah. The 5,500 UNIFIL troops come from France, Ireland, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Italy, Ghana, Nepal and Fiji.

Goksel said Mr. Gouding, a Briton, will tour UNIFIL positions in other parts of South Lebanon Saturday and Sunday.

Lebanon is the first leg of Mr. Gouding's swing through the Middle East, his first field trip since he took over as under-secretary for special political affairs, replacing Brian Urquhart, in January.

Mr. Gouding, 50, held talks with Prime Minister Rashid Karami and Parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini in Beirut Thursday on UNIFIL's future.

Mr. Gouding discussed the fate of British journalist Alec Collett, 64, who was kidnapped south of Beirut last March while on a writing assignment for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA). It cares for Palestinian refugees.

Mr. Karami told reporters that he promised Mr. Gouding to "make contacts and intensify efforts with all parties concerned in order to ensure Mr. Collett's release in appreciation for (U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez) de Cuellar's concern for Lebanon."

Mr. Karami said Lebanon was seeking to renew UNIFIL's mandate for another six months.

He stressed Lebanon also is pressing for Israel to withdraw from the security belt to allow the peace-keeping force to extend its zone to the border as it was originally intended.

UNIFIL has been deployed in

South Lebanon since 1978. Its mandate had been extended every six months.

The current term expires next month. Some of the contributing nations were reported to be reluctant to keep on funding and manning a force unable to fulfil its mandate.

The Dutch pulled their contingent out last October.

UNIFIL soldiers are increasingly caught in the crossfire between the Israelis and their allies on one hand and Lebanese and Palestinian commands on the other.

Israel's armed forces radio reported that the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia killed a guerrilla Thursday in the zone.

Israeli state radio reported that several Katyusha rockets were fired from Syrian-controlled territory at the eastern sector of the zone but caused no casualties.

Israel withdrew the bulk of its forces from Lebanon last June but left hundreds of soldiers and agents inside the border area.

Lebanese security sources said Israeli troops shot dead a farmer and wounded another in a raid outside the security zone.

The Israelis, in six armoured troop carriers and two Merkava tanks, went three kilometres outside the zone and fired on fields near Taibeh village, the sources said.

It was the second time Israeli troops were reported to have thrust north of the zone since they ended a six-day search for two Israelis seized by the Lebanese resistance there last month.

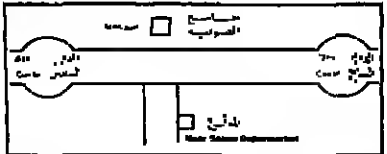
At least 17 Lebanese and two Israelis were killed then in a fruitless sweep through 19 Shi'ite Muslim villages.

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:00 Koran
15:05 Children programmes
15:10 Live transmission from the soccer match: Algeria vs. Morocco
17:55 Play It Safe
18:30 Different Strides
19:30 News Feature
20:30 News in Arabic
21:30 Arabic Series
22:30 Local programmes
23:30 Tomorrow's programmes
23:35 Arabic Series: The Road to Jerusalem
23:50 News Summary in Arabic
23:55 Series continued

PROGRAMME TWO

18:55 French Programme: Ecole des...
19:30 Anjouan live on France
19:35 News in French
19:35 Bongoval et fil
19:35 News in Hebrew
20:30 News Bulletin
21:30 Mind Your Language
21:35 A special interview with Dr. Farouq Al Bana, a prominent Arab space scientist
21:35 Saturday Variety Show
22:30 News in English
22:35 Feature film: Robbery

RADIO JORDAN

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PROGRAMME ONE

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newslet
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Pop Session
10:00 News Summary
10:30 Pop Session cont.
11:00 News Summary
11:30 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:30 Music
13:00 Concert Hour
13:30 News Summary
14:00 News Summary
14:30 Old Favorites
15:00 Talking Points
15:30 Animal Vegetable Mineral
16:00 News Summary

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BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1413 KHz

PROGRAMME ONE

06:00 Newslet
06:30 The 15th Century A.H.
06:35 The Young Sound
06:40 News Summary
06:45 25 Years of Rock
06:50 News Summary
06:55 The Blues
07:00 News Summary
07:05 Country Music
07:10 News Headlines
07:15 Close down

PROGRAMME TWO

06:00 Newslet
06:30 The 15th Century A.H.
06:35 The Young Sound
06:40 News Summary
06:45 25 Years of Rock
06:50 News Summary
06:55 The Blues
07:00 News Summary
07:05 Country Music
07:10 News Headlines
07:15 Close down

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

An exhibition of selected works by Jordanian and Foreign Contemporary artists at the Alta Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, First Circle (until March 11).

French cinema exhibition entitled "Cocoon, Cinema" at the French Cultural Centre (until March 13).

An exhibition of French industrial products and equipment at the Amman Marriott Hotel. In addition to the displays, various French films covering French technologies and industries will be screened during the exhibition (until March 9).

THEATRE

Theatre for children entitled "Kinder Lemen Zaubern" at 4:00 p.m. at the Goethe Institute.

CINEMA

"Therese Raquin" at 8:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

A lecture by Hani Lebrun on Introduction to Romantic Work of Claude Simon at 6:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 661026/7
American Centre - 644371
American Cultural Library - 641520
British Council - 636147/8
French Cultural Centre - 677009
Goethe Institute - 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre - 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre - 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre - 639777

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes from 100 years old. Also monies from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qura (Cliff 158). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Lebanese artists from modernist to the Middle East and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Museum, Jabal Leishan. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630126.
Jordan Museum (Library Building): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Leishan, 637440.
De la Belle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Leishan, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 678005.
American Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.
American Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 773261.

PRAYER TIMES

06:33 Fajr
07:55 Sunrise
11:47 Dhuhr
12:48 Asr
17:39 Maghrib
19:41 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia International Airport of the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. 181/13200-3, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:30 Cairo (MS)
06:30 London, London (BA)
06:45 Athens (AE)
06:45 Kuwait (KU)
06:55 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
06:55 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
06:55 Dhahran (RJ)
06:55 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)
06:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
06:55 Riyadh (RJ)
06:55 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
12:10 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
13:45 Kuwait (KU)
14:30 London (BA)
14:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
14:30 Cairo (RJ)
14:30 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
14:35 Paris, Damascus (AF)
14:35 Tripoli (RJ)
14:35 Baghdad (JA)
14:35 Rome, Damascus (AZ)
14:35 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
14:35 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

06:30 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
06:30 Athens (AE)
06:45 Athens (AE)
06:45 Cairo (RJ)
06:45 Kuwait (KU)
06:55 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
06:55 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
06:55 Dhahran (RJ)
06:55 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)
06:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
06:55 Riyadh (RJ)
06:55 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
12:10 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
13:45 Kuwait (KU)
14:30 London (BA)
14:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
14:30 Cairo (RJ)
14:30 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
14:35 Paris, Damascus (AF)
14:35 Tripoli (RJ)
14:35 Baghdad (JA)
14:35 Rome, Damascus (AZ)
14:35 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
14:35 Baghdad (RJ)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

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WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Medium and high clouds will appear. An increase in temperature is expected. Light and variable winds will change into southerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Amman 7/20
Aqaba 13/26
Dahran 6/21
Jordan Valley 10/26

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 17, Aqaba 24. Humidity readings: Amman 44 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Thursday rates

Local currency rates in J.S.D.

Bahraini dinar 136/7 140/6

Dutch guilder 200/206

Egyptian pound 50/2 51/6

French franc 344/352

Japanese yen (for 100) 193/4 197/6

Kuwaiti dinar 126/7 127/4

Lebanese lira 14/16

Omani rial 940/950

Qatari rial 99/101

Saudi riyal 98/101

Swedish crown 48/3 49/2

Swiss franc 182/7 187/5

Syrian lira 23/25

UAE dirham 98/100

U.K. sterling pound 57/7 57/7

U.S. dollar 330/2 335/8

W. German mark 154/3 158/9

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228

Amman civil defence 198, 199

Civil Defence Irbid 271293, 273131

Civil Defence Qazwina 770733

Ambulance 193, 775111

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lutfi, Assad discuss joint committee

CAIRO (Petra) — Egyptian Prime Minister Ali Lutfi and Minister of Higher Education Nasseriddin Al Assad, currently on a visit to Egypt, Thursday reviewed topics which will be discussed by the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Joint Committee during its forthcoming meeting in Amman in April. The two sides also discussed the resolutions of the higher committee's recent meeting in Cairo. Also discussed were ways of supporting cultural and scientific cooperation between the two countries as well as issues related to Jordanian students studying at Egyptian universities and institutes.

Fayez meets with Australian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Australian Ambassador to Jordan Terry Goggin discussed Australian-Jordanian relations and the general situation in the Middle East region during a meeting Thursday with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez. At the meeting, Mr. Fayez spoke about Israel's inhuman practices against the people in the occupied Arab territories and its obstruction to all initiatives leading to a permanent peace. Mr. Fayez reiterated Jordan's call for the convening of an international conference under United Nations auspices to re-establishing security and stability in the region.

Deputy mayor of Paris ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Mayor of Paris Bernard Rocher and the accompanying delegation left Amman Thursday at the end of a week-long visit to Jordan during which they met with Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Al Hmoud, Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh and officials at Amman Municipality. During the visit, Mr. Rocher held talks on bilateral cooperation between Paris and Amman municipalities in the fields of traffic, garbage, road maintenance, planning and training. The French delegation also visited a number of historical and tourist sites in the country.

Nsour briefs students on 5-year plan

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour Thursday conferred with excellent students at the University of Jordan and briefed them on the ministry's activities as well as the national five-year development plan. The plan, Dr. Nsour said, will provide approximately 112,000 job opportunities and the expected volume for investment in the plan will amount to some JD 3,500 million. The minister said that the plan will be categorised into three major sections: social services, infrastructure and production.

Ministry to honour postgraduate women

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Labour and Social Development, in cooperation with the Amman Club for Business and Professional Women, will today honour Jordanian women who hold PhD degrees in natural sciences. A source at the club said the aim of honouring postgraduate women is to make public their achievements in their professional lives. (See page 5).

German banking delegation visits JEA

AMMAN (Petra) — The visiting director general of the West German Bank for Reconstruction and Development (KfW) and the accompanying delegation paid a visit Thursday to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA). The delegation met with Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Hisham Al Khateeb and JEA Director General Muhammad Arafah in the presence of Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) President Munther Haddadin and senior officials at the ministry and the JEA. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the electrical energy situation in Jordan, current studies in the field as well as projects being carried out by the JEA with financing from the KfW.

First local theatre festival postponed due to lack of coordination, financial support

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian Theatre Festival, which was to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) on the occasion of World Theatre Day in March, has been postponed. This would have been the first festival of its kind in Jordan. According to Mr. Hani Snobar, assistant director of the RCC, it was postponed due to a lack of organisation and agreement between the theatrical artists, as well as a lack of financial support. The event was to have been a competition for the best play, actor, actress, writer and director in the sections of professional theatre, amateur, and children's plays. The prizes were to be donated by several parties: Yarmouk and Jordan Universities offered medals and plaques; Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, offered plane tickets; and there were scholarships from the United States, Britain and France in the field of theatre. Mr. Snobar told the Jordan Times that this festival could have attracted many people and could have created a new audience for local theatre. He says the festival could have done very well if the artists had been more organised and cooperated with one another. Another important reason for the postponement is the lack of financial, as well as moral support from the government, he said. Mr. Snobar hopes there will be a budget for Jordanian theatre in the coming five-year plan. Mr. Haidar Mahmoud, head of the Department of Culture and Arts, was not available for comment on the subject.

Children's plays

Although the Jordanian theatre festival has been postponed, there will be three plays on the occasion of World Theatre Day (March 27). Two will be children's plays and the third will be a professional production. Mrs. Juliette Awad, who is directing a children's play, deeply regrets the postponement of the festival. She told the Jordan Times: "This would have been the first time for a Jordanian festival

in the history of local theatre. We would have gained a large audience, which we need here. With the competition, we could have also known our status and position in theatre in comparison with other artists in Jordan."

"The Witness," which is written by her husband Jamil Awad, is a one-act play acted by children chosen from the Amman National School and the Orthodox School. This play, financed by the two schools in cooperation with the RCC, will be performed at the RCC Studio Theatre on March 15 for one week. This is the third time Mrs. Awad directs "The Witness" with children. They performed twice in 1982: Once for the Orthodox School and to raise money for the surviving children of Sabra and Shattila camps in Lebanon. JD 11,000 was raised in three days.

"The Witness" is a scarecrow in a small rural village and he tells the story of how locusts attacked the crops. The children play the villagers and they meet to decide what to do to defend their land from the locusts. This is the fifth play Mrs. Awad has directed and all five have been children's plays. Another one-act children's play will be performed at the RCC on March 27 for one week. "Ahu Al-Fawans" at the Bottom of the Siksak, is a production by the Fawans Theatre Group, and written by Nader Imran and Basir Hawari; the music is written by Amer Madi. This is the first play Samar Dudin, 23, will direct and choreograph in Jordan, except for children's plays at the Ahlia School for Girls.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Miss Dudin expressed disappointment, on her part and the children's, for the postponement of the Jordanian theatre festival. She says: "The children were so excited about competing and wanted to work hard enough to win. And then they were so discouraged, the whole mood changed. This festival would have given Jordanian theatre good publicity and audiences; people here are willing to take their children to an English-spoken play and pay JD 3 rather than see a JD 1 Arabic play. This festival could have bro-



CONGRATULATIONS: Her Majesty Queen Noor receives at Al Nadwa Palace on Thursday evening a delegation of wives of diplomats accredited to Jordan who called to congratulate the Queen on the birth of Her Royal Highness Princess Raiyah who was born on Feb. 9. The Queen earlier received the wives of the prime minister and cabinet ministers (Petra photo)

Health Minister inaugurates Deir Alla medical centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh has emphasised that his ministry is seeking to improve health services and medical treatment for all citizens in the Kingdom.

The minister, during the inauguration of a new medical centre in Deir Alla in the Jordan Valley, called on the public to increase visits to the ministry's centres and clinics for vaccination. Vaccination, Dr. Hamzeh said, prevents infection against many diseases, especially those affecting children. It is due to vaccination that some diseases, such as smallpox and polio, have been wiped

out, the minister added.

Dr. Hamzeh said the ministry is in the process of establishing 25 primary health care centres which will be equipped with all the necessary equipment. Another 13 integrated medical centres are to be built in different parts of the Kingdom to offer specialised services in the fields of child care, gynaecology, surgery in addition to primary medical care.

The medical centre inaugurated at Deir Alla was built at a cost of JD 30,000 with the aim to provide services to 4,000 people in the town and surrounding villages.



TRIPLETS: A Jordanian woman gave birth to triplets on Thursday following a normal delivery, doctors at the Rosary Nails Hospital in Irbid said. Both the mother, Mrs. Hamdeh Ahmad Salem, and the triplets were in good condition. The triplets were one boy (2.8 kilograms) and two girls (3 kilograms and 2.2 kilograms). Statistics show that triplets occur once in every 65,000 deliveries in Jordan, hospital sources said.

Nsour signs loan accords for farming, telephone projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will obtain a 10 million Deutschmark loan from the West German Bank for Reconstruction and Development (KfW) under an agreement signed in Amman on Thursday.

The agreement provides for the loan to be channelled to small farmers through the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) and the funds will help these farmers carry out a number of projects. The easy-term loan is part of the West German government's assistance to Jordan originally scheduled for the 1984-1985 period.

The loan agreement was signed by Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour and the director general of the West German Bank.

Also, Thursday, Dr. Nsour signed an agreement for obtaining a loan amounting to approximately \$3 million from the Japanese government to help carry out engineering services for the telephone network expansion project in Amman, Irbid and Ma'an Governorates. The loan agreement was signed by Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Akira Nakayama.

"Japan has already extended five other loans to Jordan for telecommunications projects and for dam and irrigation projects in the country. This is the sixth loan and the aggregate total of loans from Japan now amounts to nearly \$45.75 million.

A pan-Arab perspective on the newstands

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Sawt Al Umma (the Voice of the Nation) is a new Arab political weekly which has recently joined the stream of pan-Arab magazines and newspapers which are published in Europe and distributed in the Arab World, the United States and Europe. But this new Arabic newspaper stands out from the other pan-Arab publications in its style as well as substance.

As its name suggests and as its editorials explain, Sawt Al Umma projects itself as the voice of the Arab nation in the sense that it does not identify with any Arab country and seeks to transcend regional borders by delving into the historical and philosophical aspects of modern political problems of the Arab World. Consequently, the newspaper does not heavily depend on news reports but dedicates most of its pages to researches, analyses, studies and opinion articles. It has no reporters and depends on contributions by well known Arab and foreign writers who include a large number of university professors and researchers.

The 20-page tabloid newspaper follows the tradition of Le Monde Diplomatique and the Guardian Weekly in that it does not use any pictures but expresses and highlights the main themes of its articles through cartoons and caricatures.

The newspaper is also different in the way it operates; the contributors and writers send their stories to its liaison office in Amman where they are edited and typeset and then sent to London on film for publication. Sawt Al Umma is published in London every Sunday and then distributed in other countries, including Jordan. There is no accurate or available distribution figure but the newspaper publishes 35,000 copies a week.

In an editorial, which appeared in its first edition on Dec. 21, 1985, the publisher, Dr. Ibrahim Shureiki, urged all Arab governments not to hinder the distribution of Sawt Al Umma. "We appeal to all Arab governments

and concerned departments, with the injured voice of our nation, to allow without any restrictions, this publication which carries the voice of the 'Arab nation' and reflects the historical message of this nation, to be distributed in all of the countries of this vast Arab World," the editorial said.

The editorial, which was addressed to the Arab League, Arab governments and Arab Ministries of Information, Justice, Culture, Foreign Affairs and Interior, reveals the general political inclination of the newspaper. "And with the voice of our nation we call upon Arab governments to remove superficial obstacles and irrational claims so that the Arabs can hear the voice of their nation in order to rise and unite in an atmosphere of freedom," Dr. Shureiki said in his editorial.

Unity, freedom Apart from its clear and strong adherence to Arab unity and freedom, Sawt Al Umma is independent in the sense that it does not reflect any governmental policy or any other political ideology. In fact, the articles and studies which have appeared so far in the paper have reflected the political inclinations of the contributors, who seem to represent the different colours of the political spectrum. The style, however, is rather academic but in many ways the newspaper projects itself as a forum for debate of the various complex political and intellectual dilemmas which face the Arab World.

The style and openness which characterise the newspaper are in many ways a reflection of Dr. Shureiki's personality. Dr. Shureiki, a distinguished historian and writer, is, as his articles and editorials indicate, a strong believer in human rights and the freedom of speech and expression.

Dr. Shureiki has held many important academic positions in France and other European countries and he has worked at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). His latest publication is a documented history about Jerusalem entitled "Jerusalem and the Land of Kanaan."

Government order restricts participation of foreign contractors in local projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The government has issued an order prohibiting foreign contracting companies from undertaking construction projects financed by the treasury or through local loans and has urged local contractors to employ Jordanian workers and locally-produced materials in their construction projects.

The order was contained in an official communiqué issued by Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai explaining that the decision was taken in view of the construction sector's importance to the national economy and development projects in the Kingdom.

The order said that if an undertaking is found to be more than the local contractor can cope with, a consortium of local contractors should be formed to carry out the project or the concerned government departments could offer parts of the projects to different

contractors. If foreign expertise is found to be necessary for such projects, the order continued, a detailed report should be submitted to the government explaining the reasons for employing foreign expertise. A special committee comprising the minister of public works and representatives of the Jordanian Engineers Association and the employers union will be in charge of examining the request and recommending permission for employing foreign expertise, the order said.

The order, which was issued Friday, warned that any local contractor found to have contracted a foreign sub-contractor without the ad hoc committee's approval will be prosecuted and could risk losing the contract. According to the ruling, foreign companies are not allowed to carry out local projects except in participation with local contractors and the contracts should stipulate the degree of involvement of each party.

The prime minister sent a letter to Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour requesting that contracts be made with Arab funds to make arrangements for confining contracts to be financed by them to Jordanian or Arab contractors only. The letter suggested that Arab funds offer marginal participation to foreign contractors when foreign contractors' expertise is required.

Ferry catches fire at Nuweibe

CAIRO/AQABA (J.T.) — A ferry boat with more than 500 passengers on board caught fire and was completely destroyed while about to start a voyage from the Sinai port of Nuweibe to Aqaba, but most of those on board were reported safe and unharmed, according to a report published in Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper on Friday. The Al Ra'i report said that the ferry was an Egyptian vessel but another report from the Associated Press in Cairo said that the boat, the Farah Baraka, was Jordanian. The AP report, quoting the Middle East News Agency (MENA), also said that the fire broke out aboard the boat after the passengers had gone ashore.

After the fire broke out, the ferry was towed out to sea as fire-fighting craft tried to extinguish the flames, the AP report added. MENA did not give the number of passengers or crew members nor say what caused the blaze.

The report in Al Ra'i said that most of the passengers were Jordanians and Egyptians of whom six Egyptians were later treated for partial suffocation from smoke. According to the Al Ra'i report, the whole cargo on board, the ferry boat, including cars, other vehicles and goods being transported to Aqaba, were lost in the fire. The fire spread quickly due to the strong wind which was blowing at the time, making it difficult for firemen to control the blaze, the report added.

But a spokesman for the Ministry of Transport Friday told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that all the passengers heading for Aqaba from Nuweibe left the ferry boat safe and that all the trucks, cars and luggage on board were salvaged intact. The necessary measures have been taken by the Jordanian and Egyptian

sides to guarantee the transport of passengers from Nuweibe to Aqaba by operating three trips by the Egyptian ferry Al Hussein, Petra said.

The AP report said that Egyptian Transport Minister Sulaiman Mitwalli ordered an Egyptian ferry to transport to Aqaba 1,350 passengers who had booked on the Farah Baraka for the voyage from Nuweibe to Aqaba.

Tanker catches fire near Aqaba

In another development, fuel tanker truck caught fire and burnt

after overturning near the industrial school and a housing estate at the approaches of Aqaba on Thursday.

A spokesman for the Civil Defence Department said that the driver apparently lost control of the vehicle and sudden braking caused the truck to overturn, spilling 45 tonnes of flammable fuel on the ground. The fuel caught fire, completely burning the vehicle, the spokesman said. He said that the drivers sustained burns but no other damage was caused to neighbouring areas because firemen rushed to control the fire.

Visiting women's team expresses Soviet support for Arab causes

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of visiting Soviet women have voiced Moscow's support for the Arab people's struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territories and for convening an international conference to find a just and durable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The leader of the group made the statement during a ceremony held in their honour at the Soviet Cultural Centre in Amman on Thursday afternoon to mark International Women's Day which falls on March 8. The group's spokesperson outlined the achievements of Soviet women and also spoke about Moscow's peace plan and the Soviet Union's call for the removal of all nuclear weapons.

Coinciding with the delegation's visit, the Soviet Cultural Centre opened a week-long exhibition of photographs featuring Soviet women's achievements.

The women's delegation also visited Baqa'a refugee camp on Thursday and met with women's representatives. They discussed issues pertaining to women in the occupied Arab territories and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The director of the Arab women's centre at the camp, Rifqa Shahin, spoke at the meeting and paid tribute to the Soviet Union's support for Arab causes. She also spoke about Israel's inhuman treatment of Arab people in the occupied Arab lands.

N. Yemeni education team due today

AMMAN (Petra) — A North Yemeni education delegation is due here Saturday for talks with officials from the Ministry of Education. The discussions will deal with educational cooperation between Jordan and North Yemen, according to a spokesman for the Ministry of Education.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: International community's responsibility

SPEAKER of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez discussed the Middle East situation in Amman with the Australian ambassador, pointing out that Israel's mal-practices against Arab people and its obstructions in the path of peace continue to prevent the establishment of security and stability in this region. Mr. Fayez told the ambassador about Israel's continued eviction of Arab people from their homeland, its detention of innocent Arabs and seizure of Arab property. He also urged the international community to take meaningful measures for paying the way for the convening of an international conference to establish peace in our region. The international community should not remain impassive as to the Israeli policies and the building of settlements on Arab land in defiance of United Nations resolutions. The international community should not miss this opportunity of an international conference, designed to achieve permanent peace. Mr. Fayez's statement was a reconfirmation of Jordan's firm and unchanging policies with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and a reminder for other nations that they should contribute towards the establishment of peace.

Al Dustour: Declining oil prices

ECONOMIC circles are justified in expressing concern over the continual drop in oil prices and the confusion in the prices of oil. A deterioration in the oil prices would eventually have negative effect on development and the standard of living of many Third World nations and could threaten the security and stability of the Middle East region. Exchanging accusations and counter accusations would do no good, and those OPEC member nations which violated the cartel's system and reduced the oil prices should be considered responsible in the first place for the present deteriorating situation. Our concern is that since oil producing countries have been offering financial assistance to other Third World nations and since their revenues will drop due to the drop in oil prices then the Third World countries would not expect further assistance and their economic development plans would suffer, with negative effects on their populations. At the same time, oil producing nations would no doubt try to reduce their own development projects and begin laying off many Arab workers, who upon returning to their home countries, would create new social and economic problems.

Sawt Al Shaab: Iranian blackmail

FRANCE's decision to sue a French firm that had illegally sold arms to Iran is a wise one, and a step in the right direction. France, which has numerous interests in the Arab World, realises that such action cannot be tolerated, and it also realises that Iran is the aggressor and continues to pursue a senseless war against an Arab neighbour in violation of all principles and international laws. France has obviously not succumbed to terrorist pressure and blackmail and has refused to respond to demands by the abductors of French citizens in Beirut by offering Iran arms in return for the release of the French citizens. It has adhered to international principles and higher ideals in its attitude and its dealings with all parties. The Iranians who launched their latest offensive on Iraq last month had hoped to involve other Arab and foreign countries in the conflict and have been hoping to pressure foreign nations to support their aggression and their evil ambitions and goals. A country that launches aggression and continues to make a mockery of international principles and laws does not deserve any assistance.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: In support of Iraq

KING Hussein's brief visit to Baghdad in the past week was a show of total support for Iraq in its heroic struggle against the Iranian aggressors. The visit was to re-affirm the Jordanian people's backing for and pride in the Iraqi people and their struggle to defend the motherland. The King held talks with President Saddam Hussein dealing with the situation at the front and Arab affairs, and they no doubt made an assessment of the whole situation in the region taking into consideration the dangers that threaten the Arab Nation as a whole. Jordan continues to support Iraq and its armed forces in every possible way, because they are involved in a conflict imposed on them by the invaders and the aggressors who have ambitions in Arab land. The Iraqi armed forces who are now fighting the Iranian aggressors would no doubt help their Arab brothers on the western front to regain their land in occupied Palestine. These forces have proved to the world that they are capable of defending Arab territory and regaining usurped property.

Al Dustour: Commitment to Iraq

KING Hussein visited Iraq on Wednesday to renew Jordan's backing for its people and to pledge continued support for their endeavour in repelling aggression. The King represents the whole Jordanian family and voices Jordanian strong feelings of support for their Iraqi brothers who continue to offer sacrifice for the Arab Nation. Since the start of the war Jordan has never faltered in its support and backing for the Iraqi people because Jordan remains committed to national causes and committed to help Arab brothers facing aggression. Jordan is thus bolstering the Iraqi shield which protects the Arab homeland, because the Iranians are threatening all the Gulf states and other Arab countries. King Hussein's visit and support for Iraq is a manifestation of Jordanian people's feelings and a translation of a national commitment to Iraqi brothers.

Nasser's memory gains new force in Egypt

With the Egyptian economy ailing despite the efforts of President Mubarak, nostalgia is growing for the policies and personality of his predecessor but one, Gamal Abdel Nasser. Tony Walker reports on what some see as a dangerous trend.

CAIRO — His photograph is displayed increasingly on the streets of Cairo by private citizens. His name is more often mentioned in conversation and in the press. And as Egypt's economic crisis deepens the policies he stood for gain more popular support, to the discomfort of the mainstream of the ruling National Democratic Party. At a time when President Hosni Mubarak is warning opposition groups to exercise restraint or risk the consequences, the apparent rebirth of a Nasserist trend is being watched closely in Egypt.

President Gamal Abdel Nasser died, aged 52, of a heart attack in September 1970. But his views appear to be striking a chord in a country where the simpler answers of another era have a certain appeal, given the seemingly intractable problems of today.

The late president has always been an uncomfortable historical fact for his successors, who have sought by various means to curb the influence of his views.

Loosely described as Nasserism, these embrace a commitment to Arab unity and represent a form of grassroots socialism.

President Sadat first suspended and then outlawed Nasser's political organisation, the Arab Socialist Union (ASU). Subsequent attempts to form a Nasserite party have been bogged down in the courts, a result of the arcane regulations enacted in the 1970s that gave the Sadat regime effective power of veto over new political parties.

Agitation for the formation of a Nasserite party, however, is growing. One legal impediment was removed in 1984, when the Administrative Court decided an application to form a new party had merit, referring to the supreme constitutional court for final judgment. That is where it is lodged.

It seems a matter of time — and Egypt's legal system on contentious cases is extremely ponderous — before a Nasserite party in some form is approved. It is a prospect viewed with apprehension by the forces of the centre and the right, which are uncertain about the extent of Nasserist support.

There is little likelihood of an improvement in Egypt's financial position in the next few years, so backing for a Nasserite programme may well be considerable, even though much of what Gamal Abdel Nasser stood for in the turbulent 1950s has limited relevance today.

A worrying possibility for those

in power in Egypt is that a party that raises the banner of the late president would constitute a powerful rallying point for the left, whose impact is at the moment diminished because of divisions among the various groupings.

There are even suggestions that a significant element of president Mubarak's own NDP would defect to the Nasserists if a party were formed. Several of Mr. Mubarak's top advisers served as Nasser aides.

Judging the strength of the Nasserite tendency is not proving easy. The movement currently comprises two factions: one is led by Kamal Ahmed, a former parliamentarian from Alexandria and prominent figure in Nasser's Arab Socialist Union; the other by Farid Abdel Karim, a lawyer who was also active in the ASU.

Since the death of President Sadat in 1981, Mr. Ahmed has been responsible for pursuing through legal channels permission to form a Nasserite party.

Mr. Karim, who operates from dingy offices in Cairo's central business district, says that his group "the Arab Socialist Nasserite Party" is supporting Mr. Ahmed's efforts to secure legal sanction for a new political organisation that represents the late president's views. How these two streams will co-ordinate if permission for a party is granted remains unclear.

Mr. Karim, who is well regarded by young Nasserists, claims the

support of some 40,000 "cadres," and the numbers, he says, are building all the time. His group met for the first time on January 15, 1984 and has grown, he says, into a fully-fledged movement. Government concern about Nasserite activity was underlined by its refusal this year to allow the group to conduct its regular mid-January meeting which coincides with the late president's birthday. The government is scared of the Nasserists, said Mr. Karim, because for them the "Nasserite trend is the most dangerous trend." It is the only party, he added, capable of achieving mass support.

Mohammed Heikal, Nasser's confidant and editor of Cairo's Al-Ahram newspaper in the 1960s, when it was the most influential publication in the Arab World, sees two distinct political threads in Egypt at present. These are the Nasserists and Muslim fundamentalists.

Of the Nasserists, he says: "They are like an army without generals, and that's their dilemma. But they are a very potent movement. Between them and the religious trend they monopolise opinion."

Nasserism's relevance today, observed Mr. Heikal, is that Egypt will always aspire to be independent. It will always have an Arab commitment and a desire for social justice. These are the Nasserite themes espoused by Mr. Karim and his supporters.

Nasserism's appeal is understandable given that many Egyptians are increasingly questioning the value of close ties with the United States, the Camp David accords and the "open door" policy of president Sadat aimed at encouraging productive foreign investment, but which is being represented in opposition publications as a conduit for a small group of corrupt officials and businessmen to get rich.

Mohammed Salmawy, an editor of Al-Ahram and a declared Nasserist, says there is a "resurgence of Nasserism after Sadat because people can now compare the two experiments they have lived through and in most cases the comparison is favourable to Nasser rather than Sadat."

"Nasserism is basically a means of reaching a degree of social justice without resorting to Communism or Marxism... what people yearn for is social justice as under Nasser, and given Egypt's economic situation this idea has strong appeal."

Mr. Karim said there were three main problems facing Egyptian society. These were relations with America, the peace treaty with Israel and what he described as the "total annihilation" of Nasser's programme, which included assistance to the "productive sector," namely workers, labourers and farmers.

"We believe our interests are

very different from those of the U.S.," he said.

One of the accusations levelled against the Nasserists is that they are espousing the political programme of the late president, the undemocratic practices of the 1950s and 1960s, when dissent was stifled and opposition groups, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood, were treated in a repressive manner.

"Nasser," Mr. Karim declared, "was a great democrat. All his struggle was to remove obstruction to democracy." At best this appears a fanciful version of events and one that suggests that Nasserists are having difficulty constructing a contemporary political programme that takes account of the positive and negative elements of the Nasser years.

Mona Makrem Ebeid, lecturer in sociology, member of the traditionalist Wafd opposition party and newspaper columnist, believes the failure of Nasserists in their uncritical view of Nasserism.

Mrs. Ebeid is sceptical about Nasserist claims of mass support but she does acknowledge the memories of the late president and his policies are tinged with a certain nostalgia, and that among young people unfamiliar with the actual circumstances of Nasser's rule he has become a romantic even heroic figure — Financial Times news feature.

Namibia: Hope for independence

WINDHOEK — These are the key facts about Namibia (South West Africa), the African continent's last white-ruled dependency for which South African President P.W. Botha on Tuesday proposed August 1 as the date to begin implementing a U.N. plan for independence.

Population: 1,051,000 (1982 census) mostly blacks and coloureds. Whites are in a minority of 7.5 per cent.

Religion: More than 40 per cent Protestants, 13 per cent Catholics, with many animist spirit worshippers.

Official languages: Afrikaans and English. German is an additional national language.

Area: 823,168 square km bounded to the west by the Atlantic, to the north by Angola and Zambia, to the east by Botswana and to the south by South Africa.

Capital: Windhoek (population 88,700, more than half white).

Armed forces (source: South African military spokesman in Windhoek): up to 50,000 South African defence forces at any one time plus several thousand counter-insurgency police operating in hazardous areas. Exact numbers are not disclosed.

South African intelligence sources say the rebel South West Africa Peoples Organisation (SWAPO) has 6,000 fighters operating with up to 13,000 a few years ago.

Economy: GNP \$1.4 billion. \$1,407 per head (est. 1980). Main economic activity lies in minerals, livestock farming. South Africa, the European Community and the U.S. are Namibia's main trading partners.

Modern history: Namibia, sparsely populated but rich in minerals, was colonised by Germany in 1884 and taken over by South Africa in 1915.

The League of Nations gave South Africa a mandate to administer the territory in 1920 which was replaced by a U.N. trusteeship in 1946.

SWAPO began a war to end South African rule in 1966, the U.N. stripped South Africa of its mandate and in 1971 the International Court of Justice ruled South African control illegal.

But despite repeated United Nations resolutions demanding

Namibia's independence and SWAPO's 18-year hush war, South Africa has retained control of the territory.

The South African-inspired Turnhalle conference on Namibian independence from 1975 to 1976 resisted U.N. demands for South Africa's withdrawal and proposed an interim government.

After talks with Pretoria, SWAPO, "frontline" African states and a contact group of officials from the U.S., Britain, France, Canada and West Germany called for U.N.-supervised elections, which were approved by South Africa and SWAPO in 1978.

But instead South Africa held "internal elections" in Namibia that were boycotted by SWAPO. They were won by the South African-backed Turnhalle Alliance Party but were not recognised by the U.N.

In 1979 South Africa launched air raids against 12 SWAPO villages based in Angola and was also accused by Zambia, one of the frontline states, of bombing some of its villages.

In 1981 a Geneva conference on Namibia failed to achieve a ceasefire agreement, which South Africa argued would be premature. But the contact group vetoed proposed sanctions against South Africa.

In 1982 the contact group announced the agreement of all parties on constitutional principles but progress was prevented by South African insistence on a parallel accord that an estimated 25,000 Cuban troops in Angola be withdrawn.

Further talks in July 1984 in the Cape Verde islands, the first known direct talks between South Africa and SWAPO, broke down over SWAPO's insistence that a ceasefire could only be effected under U.N. supervision and implementation of a U.N. independence plan for the territory.

In June, 1985, South Africa granted limited powers to an interim government made up of a coalition of internal parties, excluding the SWAPO.

U.S. negotiator Chester Crocker visited Angola and South Africa in January in what diplomats said was a new bid to find a solution to the Namibian independence issue.

Signs of political in-fighting in Aquino government

By Angus MacSwan
 Reuters

MANILA — President Corason Aquino's "people's power" government began its second week in office Wednesday amid growing signs of political in-fighting and hurdles to dismantling the establishment set up by deposed leader Ferdinand Marcos.

Aquino faces dissent within the military over the release of political prisoners and how to deal with Communist insurgency, protests against the dismissal of pro-Marcos mayors and governors, and resentment among opposition figures passed over in the new government.

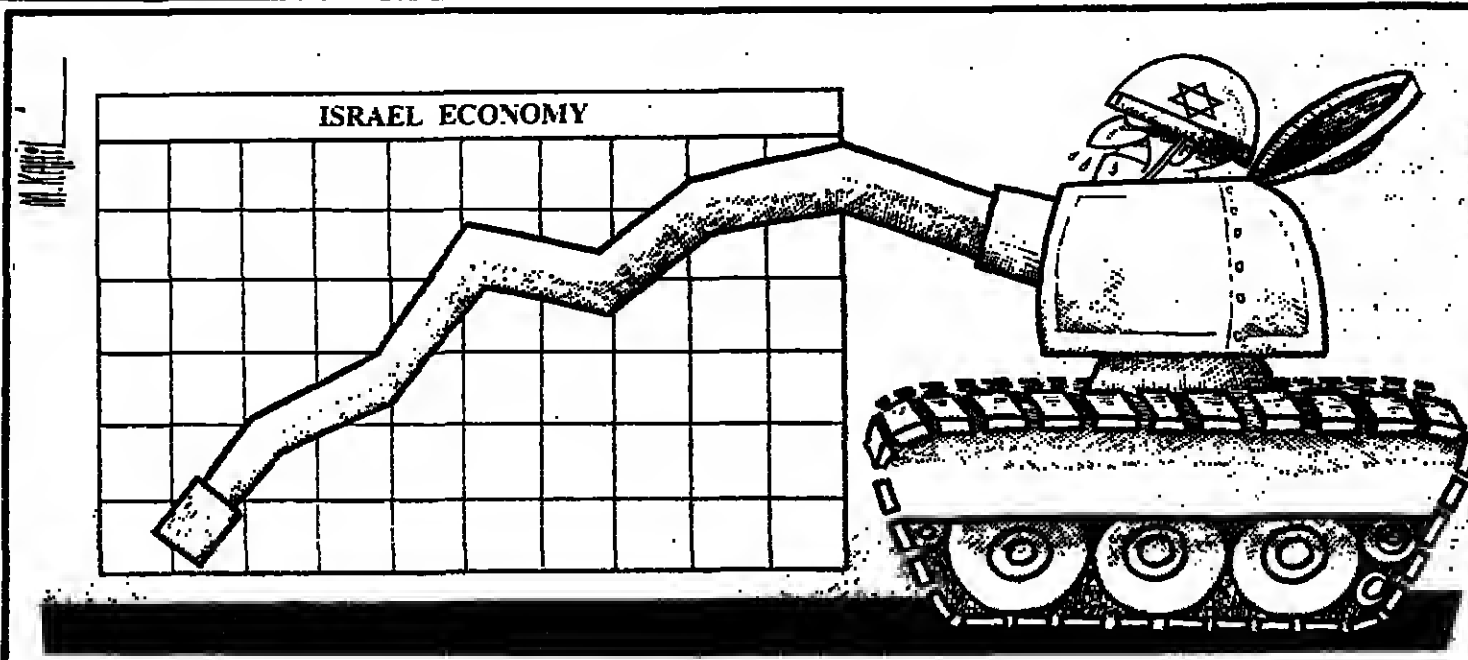
She must also deal with a nation which ousted Marcos after 20 years through a popular uprising and now appears set to adopt the catchword and tactic of "people's power" to push other demands. Local Government Minister

Aquilino Pimental has caused a storm of protest by dismissing pro-Marcos mayors and provincial governors and appointing replacements.

Elections for the posts were due in May but Aquino has indicated she might cancel them. Many of the officials have refused to resign and their supporters have staged protests against the move.

Other leaders of the deposed regime are also clinging to their positions. Marcos' prime minister Cesar Virata and vice-president-elect Arturo Tolentino have both refused to yield their positions to Salvador Laurel, who was awarded the two posts in the new government.

Aquino has also called on the 13-man supreme court appointed by Marcos to resign. Five members heeded her call on Tuesday but eight still remain. They and other officials say they were appointed or elected under the constitution.



Spanish 'No' could harm NATO morale and set a precedent

By Paul Taylor
 Reuters

BRUSSELS — With only days left before Spain votes in a hotly-contested referendum on whether to stay in NATO, officials at alliance headquarters are scanning each new opinion poll with mounting anxiety.

Wary of interfering in the campaign, U.S. and European officials nevertheless say a "No" vote would be a severe blow to allied morale that could set a divisive precedent.

"Politically, it would be awful. We pride ourselves on being an alliance of democracies. If the only democracy ever to hold a vote specifically on NATO membership voted against, it would be a terrible setback," a European NATO diplomat said.

NATO Secretary-General Lord Carrington, who visited Madrid in January, has said that if Spain does vote to leave, it would have been better if it had never joined.

Most opinion polls have forecast a majority in favour of withdrawal, though the margin seems to be narrowing as Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez throws his full weight behind the "Yes" campaign.

Spain joined the 16-nation defence pact under a centre-right

government in 1982, becoming the first new member since West Germany joined in 1955.

A senior NATO political analyst said a Spanish withdrawal would be "a windfall for the Soviet Union," though he and others acknowledged that Moscow had kept a low profile in contrast to previous crude efforts to sway West European opinion on nuclear issues.

The analyst was concerned that a negative vote might raise demands for referendums in countries such as Greece, where majority support for NATO would be uncertain, or on individual defence issues such as the deployment of U.S. nuclear missiles.

Several NATO governments are unhappy about the terms in which Gonzalez has framed the choice. Linking continued membership with a ban on nuclear weapons in Spain and on military integration into the alliance, NATO sources said.

Carrington complained about "a la carte membership" during his Madrid trip but the allies would clearly rather retain Spain as an awkward member than lose it completely.

Militarily, a withdrawal would have little immediate impact on NATO, since Spain has never integrated its forces under allied

command and does not plan to do so even if it stays.

Its respected, fast modernising navy and maritime air forces would presumably continue to cooperate with NATO neighbours in the Mediterranean and Atlantic, a Spanish NATO official said.

The United States would continue to maintain four large air bases and a naval base, manned by about 12,000 men, under a bilateral defence agreement that runs until next year.

The accord, stepchild of a 1953 pact that the United States concluded with the late rightist dictator Francisco Franco, does not refer to NATO contingencies.

The bases are seen in the alliance as a key bridgehead for the reinforcement of Europe in a crisis, allowing the West greater "defence in depth."

Spain is also linked with its new European Community partners for foreign policy coordination and in the Independent European Programme Group, which it currently chairs, for armaments collaboration.

The Spanish official acknowledged that the perception of a Soviet threat to Spain, neutral in the two world wars, was more remote than for most other NATO allies.

However, he said Spain's commitment to defend its strategically located territory and adjacent waters was of great importance to NATO.

Many allied officials are distressed by the attitude of Spain's conservative opposition, the Alianza Popular, which is campaigning for a boycott of the referendum, although it supports NATO.

"Apart from being questionable in a young democracy, the boycott seems a self-defeating way for NATO's oldest supporters in Spain to try to make a domestic political point and embarrass Gonzalez," a European diplomat said.

Some NATO officials also say they detect a slightly anti-American tone in the Socialist pro-NATO arguments.

Despite the negative opinion polls, some NATO aides in Brussels say they find it hard to believe their Spanish colleagues will be packing their papers and going home in a few months' time.

"Even if they lose the referendum, the turn-out could be so low that the government could argue only a minority voted 'No'. Or else it could be left to an election in which both major parties would support NATO," one non-NATO analyst said.

Afghan refugees become political issue in Pakistan

By Tom Heneghan
 Reuters

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Pakistan's three million Afghan refugees, long welcomed here as Muslim brothers in distress, are rapidly becoming magnets for public resentment in the nervous Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP).

The revival of political life last December after eight and a half years of martial law has sparked a sometimes bitter debate over Islamabad's blanket support for the refugees and the rebels among them who fight Kabul's government.

A series of bomb blasts in the Frontier Province, for which police blame the Afghan secret service Khad, has increased tension and fanned suspicion against almost everything Afghan.

"I don't know who did it, but it is all because of the refugees. They should go," said Nasrullah, driving his taxi past an airline office destroyed in a January 23 blast that killed four people and injured 28.

The bombs and ensuing marches by groups for and against the refugees have brought more police onto Peshawar's streets. Foreign refugee aid workers have been advised not to venture into the bustling main Qissa Khwani ("story-tellers") bazaar.

The change has spread fear and uncertainty among the refugees, who were sure of official support as long as Pakistani President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq kept the political lid down but now worry how the new civilian government will deal with their critics.

Peshawar-based rebel groups now more openly side with the fundamentalist Jamaat-ul-Islami, joining in meetings and demonstrations by the right-wing party — the only one in Pakistan fully behind their struggle.

Refugees in the sprawling camps around the Frontier Province capital said tribal elders are now consulting each other about contingency plans if the atmosphere worsens.

Left-wing parties here have been quick to tap what they see as a well of suppressed resentment, charging the refugees interfere in

domestic politics and provoke Afghan retaliation raids that bring Kabul's six-year-old war into Pakistan.

"It is tenser now than I have ever seen it," said one exiled intellectual who came here after Moscow sent troops to Kabul in 1979.

"I used to advise refugees not to take sides in Pakistani politics, but in this atmosphere, you have to," the exile, who asked not to be named, said.

Frontier Province police chief Abbas Khan last month accused Khad of planting bombs and mines which have killed at least 23 people in the province this year.

One blast, in the main ticket office of Pakistan International Airlines, killed four people and injured 28.

Fifteen Afghans were killed when their pickup truck hit a land mine near the mountainous border on January 7. Mines have also been reported near refugee camps.

Officials also accuse Afghanistan of arming dissident Pashtun tribesmen in the lawless border area to have them stop rebels from using the region as their sanctuary.

The main dissident chief, Wali Khan Kakikhel, admits to taking arms from Afghanistan. Kabul denies Islamabad's charges but officials there admit to sending food and clothes.

In this atmosphere of uncertainty, Abdul Wali Khan, head of the left-wing National Democratic Party (NDP) opposed to Islamabad's Afghan policy, has launched a virulent campaign against the exiles.

He talks of Peshawar becoming a Beirut on the Afghan-Pakistan border. "A bloodbath could happen at any time," he said, and urges people to form defence committees, because he says right-wing groups have "hit lists" of government critics.

Meanwhile Islamabad says it is worried by the flood of weapons to the frontier. Interior Minister Mohammad Aslam Khattak says there are now about 300,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles in the tribal belt, but denies any secret arms supplies to the rebels.

Jordanian working women express their views

By Sam Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — If anyone says women are inferior to men in the professional and business world, especially in Jordan, he or she is mistaken. There are women here who hold high responsible positions and being a woman has nothing to do with it.

Mrs. Ophelia Bishouty has been working for 30 years. She began her education in Jerusalem at the Schmidt Girls College where she received her Palestine Matriculation (equivalent to high school), and afterwards did teacher training course there. She graduated from England in 1950 with a Bachelor of Arts in Education. Mrs. Bishouty came back to Amman where her parents lived and she worked for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) as a field nutritionist for four years. In 1952 she married and later had two sons and from 1954 to 1958 she was not working in order to be with her children. When they were old enough for school, she started working again; teaching English and working in administration at the Greek Catholic School, and did so for 15 years, during which she had a daughter. In 1973 Mrs. Bishouty became the deputy principal at the Abila School for Girls for three years and then full principal for five years. After leaving the school in 1981, she worked for one year in a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the Ministry of Social Development training housewives on the maintenance and repair of household electrical equipment. The year after that Mrs. Bishouty stayed home for the first time since 1958. She says: "It was nice in the beginning to have all the time to myself, with no obligations. But then I got bored."

So, in 1984 she started preparation and training for the Sight and Sound Centre, which opened in June 1984. Mrs. Bishouty has been there since as the director.

When asked about the difficulties she faced being a woman and working in an Arab country, Mrs. Bishouty replied: "In my field, it was always acceptable society to have such jobs, so I never had any problems. Also, having an extremely understanding husband helps a lot. Working in education was very convenient for me because of the hours and the long summer holidays. When the children were small, they would go to school before I went to work, and I was back at home when they returned. Our holidays were at the same time, so we spent them together." Asked if she had any problems with male teachers while she was principal, Mrs. Bishouty said that they were very cooperative and never felt "bad" about their boss being a woman.

Mrs. Bishouty believes that men should have first priority in employment, unless it is more suitable for a woman. This is why, she adds, her career has been ideal in that it is accepted by society and gives time for her family at the same time. But, she noted, it is not ideal for old-age because there is on pension for those working in private schools.

More openings

Nowadays, however, more jobs and professions are acceptable and open for women in Jordan. One now finds many women doctors, engineers, lawyers, executives, etc., who are highly respected by both men and women.

One may not, however, find a Jordanian woman carrying stones for building or driving bulldozers. But then again how many Jordanian men do these jobs?

The Jordan Times interviewed



Mrs. Ophelia Bishouty

Dr. Aman Sukhun, a pediatrician and member of the American Board of Pediatrics. She studied medicine at Cairo University, Egypt, for seven years and she studied for her field at Hershey Medical Centre in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for three years. Then it took her another year and a half to get her final certificate. When Dr. Sukhun went to the U.S. to advance her education, she married another doctor, Dr. Adnan Hassan, who is now a gynecologist at the University Hospital. While she was doing her residency, she gave birth to a girl, which made her work twice as hard because she was always on call. When Dr. Sukhun came back to Amman, she worked for two years as consultant pediatrician at the King Hussein Medical Centre. Then three years ago she opened her private clinic, where she is still working.

Dr. Sukhun worked very hard to get where she is now, and was one of the first women to study medicine in the U.S. Being in pediatrics is another advantage of a career for a woman. Dr. Sukhun says: "Women who want to take their babies and children to a ped-

iatrician usually prefer women doctors. They feel a woman would be gentler and more understanding with children than men. So I have no problems with patients." The problem she may face, however, is the feeling that she is not spending as much time as she likes with her family, although she spends every moment of her free time with them. Dr. Sukhun does the cooking herself and arranged her clinic hours to be able to be with her three children. "My husband, being a doctor, helps a lot because he is very understanding when I'm called to a hospital after working hours. But we don't have much of a social life because we spend our spare time with our children," she said. At the same time, Dr. Sukhun really likes her work because she says: "I get a feeling of time and organization. And I feel good when I help people; I accomplish something worthwhile."

There are also the younger women in Jordan who feel they can take on any career they please and being a female does not stop them. Sawan Darwazah is only 23 and began working a year ago after she received her Bachelor of Arts in Communication Arts, with emphasis on drama, from Beirut, Lebanon. She first began working as a part-timer at an advertising agency, and within months she was promoted to art director. She now makes television commercials. Miss Darwazah told the Jordan Times: "Being a female really doesn't stop my clients from coming to me. I give them my ideas of what I would do, and if they like it, they'll give me the job. I don't feel that being a woman has anything to do with success. If a woman is good and determined to succeed in a profession, or take on a high position in a company or anything else, she will prove herself and can do it."



Jordan's national handball team — athletic mothers of the future (File photo)

Discrimination against girls continues in today's Jordanian society

By Najwa Najjar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the Arab World, as in many parts of the world at large there is clear preference for male children. Consequently the baby girl suffers discriminatory treatment. In addition this preference places an enormous amount of unjust pressure on the mother.

Countless mothers, at the birth of a female, have had to endure tacit or overt commiseration of

their husbands or in-laws. Haya Taher a schoolteacher related an experience she witnessed at a hospital a few weeks back. A mother had given birth to a girl, her first child. Outside, her husband was in tears, and his mother and sisters were glumly consoling him. Comments of consolation such as: "Your wife can practice on the girl so that she will be well-prepared when the boy comes," and "don't worry the next child will be a boy," could be heard.

A boy is desired for the prestige that his birth brings to the family, for the authority he will have in the family and outside it, and for what he will achieve, wrote Elema Ghanini Belotti in her book "Little Girls." Mrs. Isma Ghader, a lawyer, said that the excuses given by society for its preference of males is that it is generally felt that a girl symbolises the family's honour, and therefore, constitutes an enormous responsibility for the father. Additionally, the father must feed and cloth his girls until they are married, while a boy will contribute to the economics of the family. Mrs. Ghader stated that a boy is also very important to the father to carry on his family name for the daughter is unable to do so since she takes her husband's name.

Thus if a girl is wanted, it is on a scale of convenience. Females are considered to be more affectionate and grateful, sweet and playful, a company at home, a help with the housework, and the one who will care for her elderly parents.

An incident was related to the Jordan Times by a source who preferred to remain anonymous, which further revealed the preference. A doctor had dropped a girl he had just delivered. When he informed the father that it was a girl, but had died, the father shrugged his shoulders and said "God's will." The source said that if it was a boy, the father would have sued and made sure the doctor would never practise again.

In most cases, whether in the privileged or less privileged classes, it is the mother who is held accountable for the sex of the baby. One regularly overhears remarks like "my wife only brings girls," and "my wife has given me a fine son." Even some females have come to take responsibility when they say comments such as, "I hope I do not repeat my mother's mistake and produce only girls."

This is surprising since scientific knowledge has shown that the baby's sex is determined by the father, and it is purely a matter of chance whether the female ovum is fertilised by a sperm bearing an X chromosome or a sperm bearing a Y chromosome. In spite of science's certainty that the father is responsible for deciding the sex of the foetus, the idea has not taken root in most of the Arab societies. Meanwhile, the woman continues to endure the accusations of being unable to produce male children, and many times faces the risk of divorce or polygamy as a result of the misconception.

A mother, in order to overcome the feelings of distress, guilt and unworthiness at having a baby girl, and to gain security in her marriage, will more often than not have as many children as needed to conceive a male, or until a sufficient number of males are produced. This factor appeared in the Fertility Survey of 1976 which stated that a woman continues giving birth until she gets a satisfactory number of male children. The average number of children that a woman in Jordan has is eight, according to Dr. Fahed Faneek, an economist.

The effect of multiple closely-spaced pregnancies can be disastrous on a mother's health, especially on rural mothers. A UNICEF report stated that a pregnancy every 18 months with not-birth in between but hard work,

frequent illness, and poor food, gradually depletes the mothers body of protein and minerals. And if the late stages of the pregnancy happen to coincide with the season of heaviest work in the fields, then the mother-to-be may even lose weight as her pregnancy advances.

Continuous childbearing combined with malnutrition and infection causes a syndrome called nutritional anaemia in two thirds of pregnant women in developing countries.

Additionally, the Fertility Survey of 1976 revealed that lack of birthspacing affects the infant mortality rate. 48 per 1000 infants die if the period between births is four years or more, but this rate increases to 89 per 1000 if spacing does not exceed two years.

UNICEF's survey on the condition of Jordanian women indicated that the woman's status is based on marriage, motherhood, and the number of boys she has. One will find that single, widowed, or divorced women have no status in the society, similarly a mother who produces only females is not well accepted.

Society's rejection of females, which places pressure on the mother, has its effect on the baby girl as well. Most female children, many created in an attempt to produce a male son, face discriminatory treatment. They learn at a very young age that this is a man's world.

Mrs. Salwa Masri, a community development project manager and health coordinator of the Soldiers



More Jordanian girls are acquiring higher education, yet their percentage is still well below their brothers (File photo)

Maternal mortality rates, the risk of dying from pregnancy related causes such as unregulated fertility, high rates of illegal abortions, and partial or total absence of care during pregnancy and child birth, are highest in developing countries. Maternal mortality is among the five leading causes of death for women between the ages of 15-45.

UNICEF studies also show that childbearing at an early age has further negative consequences. The legal age of marriage for girls in Jordan is 15 years according to UNICEF's Maternal Practices in an Urban Area. The 1981 survey shows that 15.8 per cent of girls in the age group 15-19 were married and bearing children. Women who become pregnant at adolescent age have a much higher risk of complications during pregnancy and childbirth. The study showed that infant and maternal mortality are highest among teen-aged mothers.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Development reported that pregnancy and birth related mortality rates reaches 6 per cent of total deaths of the population aged 15 years. The high mortality rate due to pregnancy and birth is caused by a high number of pregnancies as is obvious from the high fertility rate, as well as the insufficient numbers of midwives and women's preference to give birth at home instead of hospitals.

The average women in Jordan, either unaware of these effects or due to society's pressure, or both, will continue producing children to ensure the arrival of a son or a sufficient number of sons. The greater the number of male children, the greater the mother's

Families Welfare Society, did her master thesis on the discrimination between males and females under the age of five especially in relation to health care and nutrition. She noted the following discriminatory practices.

A female baby is denied fulfilment of the most important event in the day-feeding, as statistics have shown that females are breastfed less than males.

Nutritional status of females is below that of males according to the orthopaedologist measures (weight and age).

Males receive more nutrients in supplementary foods. They are given more meat, legumes, eggs, fruits, and vegetables than females.

Females are immunized less than males. Educated mothers immunise their children more than uneducated women, but still females are less immunized than males.

There is more admission of females in rehydration centres due to neglect.

Males are placed more than females in institutions to help them. Males registered in mentally retarded institutions make up 37 per cent compared with 26 per cent of females.

According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, female mortality rate is higher than male mortality especially for children less than five years. Neglect of female babies is one of the main causes, according to Masri. She said that the commercial baby food and adult diets given to baby girls is so inadequate in terms of protein and vitamins that many more girls than boys die early in life.

What's on view on programme two

By J.H. Boteler

INDEED yes. Farewell to Channels 3 and 6. Hello and welcome to Programmes 1 and 2. Does this radical shift in channel nomenclature mean a similarly radical change in the programmes screened on them? It may do, but I wouldn't bet on it. Anyway, we can but find out.

Comedies

I see that the stunningly mediocre series *Mind Your Language* is even beginning to attract letters to the editor, the ultimate fate of all that dare to fly in the face of public toleration. Tonight's episode attempts to marry off Juan and Maria, and of course lots of things go wrong before the nuptial knot can be tied. Sunday has hidden a tearful farewell to "The Cabbage Patch," but hopefully the absence will prove to be a short one, since it was rather superior. Its place is taken by *Me And My Girl*, which brings together the combined talents of Richard O'Sullivan, (the various "Doctor" series and "Robin's Nest"), and Tim Brooke-Taylor. ("The Goodies"). The series revolves around widower Simon Harrap and his pretty 13-year-old daughter Samantha, and explores their relationship. Dad's reactions to Sam's first boyfriend, her comments on his ladyfriends, and the many moments when father and daughter do not quite see eye to eye. Simon also has to cope with a busy professional life in media relations at the business that he runs with his partner Derek who, unlike Simon, is shackled to a demanding family and can only envy Simon the freedom he appears to have. Other characters include a mother-in-law, an eccentric Scottish nanny, and a stage-struck secretary. Among the skits in Monday's *Carol Burnett And Friends* is one about the problems arising from cramming too many people into one very small office, while Tuesday's *That's My Boy* has Ida being given the cold shoulder by the neighbours. In *Three's Company*, (Wednesday), both Jack and Janet secretly apply to a computer dating service, and end up with each other. As per usual, misunderstandings abound before the end credits can roll. A major misunderstanding occurs in *Good Night And Good Bless*, (Thursday). Ronnie enters hospital for a minor operation and, fearing the worst, tapes two farewell messages: one to his wife and one to his bank manager. Unfortunately they are placed in the wrong envelopes. Whilst the bank manager is very touched at Ronnie's protestations of love and undying affection, Celia is none too pleased to learn about her husband's various financial arrangements. The fur should fly. On Friday Mr. Belvedere attempts to cure George of snoring.

Documentaries

After a prolonged absence *Starring The Actors* returns tonight with Anthony Hopkins as its subject. Wednesday has a one-off

programme called *Manhunter*, which traces the development of homo sapiens from a grunting cave-dweller to a smooth-talking inhabitant of a condominium. Man may have lost most of his hair and be able to do nifty things with computers, but he has always retained the most remarkable capacity for killing members of his own species, and, moreover, enjoying it. Evidence of this was shown last Sunday in *End Of Empire*. The various one-time Egyptian freedom-fighters reminisced about executions and killings they had undertaken in the same casual, offhand and smiling manner with which the rest of us discuss Sunday lunch. The message seemed to be: "It was no big deal." One began to understand what soldiers say about killing: that after the first time, it becomes easy. The subject of this week's episode is the African Gold Coast. A feature of this series has been how Conservative British governments, whether under Churchill or Eden, consistently ignored nationalist claims throughout the empire until it was too late. The attitude of the Labour Party during the same period was somewhat different. The independence of India in 1947 convinced Labour ministers and their officials in London that the empire could remain under British control only by forestalling outbursts of nationalism. Once nationalist movements were aroused they were likely to press damaging demands. By making concessions voluntarily and in good time, Britain would continue for many years to share power with moderate colonial leaders. A violent incident in Accra in 1948 enabled Britain to put this theory to the test. A protest march went out of control. A British policeman opened fire. Protests spread throughout Accra and many other Gold Coast towns. Normal colonial policy called for the firm repression of the population by sending a punitive military expedition. The Labour Government sent instead a committee of inquiry headed by a Labour lawyer known to have liberal views on African government. He recommended the rapid advance of the Gold Coast towards self-government as the best way to avoid a recurrence of the troubles. For colonial Africa this was a revolutionary policy, but the Labour Colonial Secretary, Arthur Creech Jones, firmly pressed ahead. An all-African committee was appointed to draw up proposals for a new constitution for the Gold Coast. In 1951 British officials prepared voter's lists and set up polling stations for the first general election in black Africa. Unfortunately, the wrong man won. Kwame Nkrumah, the one leading African politician who had been kept off the constitutional advisory committee, the dangerously radical and popular public speaker who had been imprisoned — after an open trial — for threatening public order, topped the poll in Accra. His party also won most of the seats in the rest of the country. The Governor — who had recently described him as "our local Hitler" — had Nkrumah brought from prison and appointed him



Anthony Hopkins is John Strickland, the barrister and budding M.P. whose dramatic change of life has a shattering effect on those around him, Tuesday at 9:10

Leader of Government Business. Nkrumah and the Governor, Sir Charles Arden-Clarke, soon formed a close alliance. Nkrumah enabled Arden-Clarke to maintain order in the country. Arden-Clarke enabled Nkrumah to secure the rapid advance to independence that his leadership had inspired. The majority of Gold Coast voters to demand. Against Nkrumah and Arden-Clarke were the new Conservative Government in London, convinced that Labour had launched the Gold Coast onto a rapid path to independence that disaster was inevitable, and the chiefs of Ashanti and the Northern Territories, who did not want power transferred from Britain to Nkrumah. However Nkrumah had this rather disconcerting habit of repeatedly winning elections. It was this skill that obliged the Conservative government, in the midst of its preparations to invade Suez in October 1956, to announce that the Gold Coast would become independent as Ghana in five months time. Nkrumah, first Prime Minister of a European Colony in Africa to achieve independence, became for some years the standard-bearer of the continent.

Detectives and Drama

Dempsey and Makepeace return on Sunday, but I daresay Dempsey will wish he hadn't, since he attracts the romantic attentions of a love-sick girl, and when he spurns her, she shoots him. *Amat Jessica's* well-trained nose sniffs out another rotten egg in *Murder, She Wrote* on Tuesday, while on Friday Hunter investigates the beneficiaries of a leg-

acy when a rich man gets murdered.

Drama sees *Sense And Sensibility* continuing on Monday. To my mind both Eleanor and Marianne are too extreme in their temperaments: the former boringly sensible and the latter fatuously impulsive. This week both girls are down in the dumps due to being disappointed in love. It is a well photographed and well acted series — Diana Fairfax's portrayal of Mrs. Dashwood is very strong — and it moves along a lot more briskly than "Mansfield Park" did; this is probably in part due to the fact that it was originally screened in half-hour episodes. Tuesday has *A Married Man*, and this week disaffected John Strickland, visiting a client in prison, meets Paula Gerard, a social worker, and is mightily smitten. She is a millionaire's daughter with a social conscience and a ruthless ambition. Friday has *Kane And Abel*, and collective bad news for the Lester family. Susan Lester is mortified by Kane falling in love with and marrying Kate Brookles, and it is revealed that Kane's best friend and former schoolmate, Matthew Lester has been hiding a darker secret behind a veil of alcoholism. But worse is to come, with the Lester family dying off in droves.

Soaps

Not many surprises in *Dallas* last Monday. I told you everybody would survive the fire, didn't I? Surprisingly though, J.R. still appears to be insisting on giving up the in-fighting with Bobby over Ewing oil. Luckily wiser (legal) heads prevailed, and told him that it has to be a fight to the finish. Edge-of-the-seat excitement

promises this week with Bobby and Pam attempting a reconciliation (yawn), but J.R., Cliff Barnes and Catherine are all dead set against it. In *Falcon Crest*, (Wednesday), Angela Channing and her lawyer crony are still trying to get Doctor Langtree out of the country, but he upsets their plans. Apart from his other sins he is a drug-addict, and this week he takes an extra big fix and O.D.s. (But was it his finger on the plunger?) Return to *Eden* this Thursday finds Stephanie paying a visit to the pawn-shop to raise the cash to buy back a controlling interest in the company, and also having a head-on clash with Jake Sanders in a TV chat-show.

Feature Films

Do you remember 1963, and The Great Train Robbery? You don't? Oh well, tonight's film is a reenactment of that fabled exercise in self-help by a gang of English villains. Robbery stars Stanley Baker and Barry Foster and entails a lot of stern looks, people getting bashed on the head, colourful underworld slang, and cigars getting lit from wads of five-pound notes. However, as far as I remember, it does not have any character half as colourful as Ronnie Biggs.

Thursday's film is called *Chief Crazy Horse*, and stars Victor Mature as the Indian chief who defeated General Custer at the battle of the Little Big Horn. In this film though he is experiencing problems with his tribe and conducting a doomed friendship with a U.S. Cavalry major. It's a solidly-made and fairly dependable western; in fact I suppose you could say that it was a lot like Victor Mature.

John in 12/20

Boniperti: Juventus may lose Trapattoni

MILAN, Italy (R) — Giovanni Trapattoni, coach of European champions Juventus, is considering leaving after 10 years in charge, club chairman Giampiero Boniperti said Friday.

Boniperti confirmed surprise statements by Trapattoni in the Italian press in which the coach said that after nearly 10 years with the Turin club he thought the time had come for a change.

"The situation is as Trapattoni describes it in the newspapers," Boniperti told Reuters by telephone, adding that the 46-year-old coach had still to make a final decision about his future.

Trapattoni was quoted in the Turin daily La Stampa as saying: "I can leave Juventus but I am not a mercenary, a soldier of fortune who bids up the stakes so as to get rich."

"It's to do with my family and maybe with a desire to return to Milan or to prove oneself professionally in another environment such as Genoa for example, or Naples."

Trapattoni made the remarks during the homeward flight from Barcelona after Juventus were beaten 1-0 in their European Cup quarter-final first leg tie on Wednesday.

Several Italian newspapers speculated that Trapattoni had received a tempting offer to coach Inter Milan and said that his remarks, coming in mid-season, had caused consternation among Juventus players.

French star Michel Platini, who extended his contract with Juventus at the end of last season, told La Stampa: "After I signed, Trapattoni heaved a sigh of relief saying he was happy I was staying. Now he may be going, I feel half betrayed."

Trapattoni joined Juventus in 1976 from AC Milan, where he had a distinguished career as a player and a trainer.

Under his guidance, Juventus have won the league championship four times, the Italian league title twice and the European Cup Winners' Cup, Champions' Cup, Super Cup and World Club Championship once each.

With more than half the season gone, Juventus are four points clear at the top of the Italian league.

Algeria and Morocco clash today

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuter

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt — World Cup finalists Algeria and Morocco take the field Saturday in what could be their only clash in the African Nations' Cup finals.

The odds are strong that, if they play each other again in the eight-nation tournament, it will be in the March 21 final in Cairo.

The Algerians and Moroccans, both bolstered by European-based players, are the pre-

tournament stars of Group B in Alexandria, whose round-robin matches are being played on alternate days to those of Group A, which started Friday in Cairo.

Hundreds of fans in this Mediterranean port city of three million people have been turning out to watch the two North African sides in training, and youngsters swarm them for autographs or photographs.

A capacity crowd is expected for their match Saturday two hours after holders Cameroon and

Zambia meet in the day's first match.

The Camerounians will be keen to dispel speculation that their days of glory, after an impressive run in the 1982 World Cup finals, may be waning.

They were knocked out of the race for this year's Mexico World Cup by Zambia, and this gives Saturday's match added explosive potential.

All four sides in the group have strong individual stars — especially the North Africans.

Morocco, who last won the African Cup in 1976, will be hoping for a strong performance from striker Aziz Bouderbala of Swiss club side Sion.

Coach Jose Faria is keeping the Algerians guessing about the Moroccan line-up until one hour before the match. But he confirmed that star goalkeeper Badou Zaki would be between the posts Saturday.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Brazil's Zico may need surgery

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil World Cup striker Zico could need surgery after twisting his left knee in training on Tuesday, team doctor Neylor Lasmar said Thursday. "Zico said his knee is swollen and still hurts and we fear his cartilage may have been affected," Lasmar added. Zico, who celebrated his 33rd birthday on Monday, said coach Tele Santana promised to wait for him until Brazil flew to the World Cup finals in May. But Lasmar explained that should he need more surgery, he doubted if Zico would be fit for the Mexico finals.

Portuguese leads marred rally

POVOA DE VARZIM, Portugal (R) — Portugal's Joaquim Moutinho held a 13-minute lead in the Portuguese Motor Rally Friday after dominating the second stage in the absence of top international drivers who withdrew in a safety protest. Moutinho, driving a Renault 5 Turbo, won eight of the 10 special sections on tarmac road in the second rally stage which ended Thursday night after circling the small northern port of Povo de Varzim. Only some 60 competitors, mostly Portuguese, remained in the rally after more than 30 top drivers walked out on the first day, including world champion Timo Salonen of Finland. They pulled out in protest over poor safety conditions after an accident in which two spectators were killed.

Top seeds advance in French Open squash

PARIS (R) — New Zealand top seeds Ross Norman and Stuart Davenport swung into the semi-finals of the French Open Squash Championships with straight-games victories here Thursday night.

Norman, top seed in the absence of four-times victor Jahangir Khan of Pakistan, defeated Sweden's Jan-Ulf Soderberg 9-6, 9-3, 9-7.

The New Zealander's agility and ability to find the angles proved too much for the Swede, who had caused an upset in the previous round by ousting fifth seed Greg Pollard of Australia.

Second seed Davenport, beaten by Jahangir in last year's final, overcame Britain's Geoff Williams 9-2, 9-7, 9-0 to claim a semi-final spot against one more Briton, Phil Kenyon.

Williams, out of action for six

months following knee surgery, did well to reach the last eight in only his second tournament since his recovery.

Kenyon, seeded sixth, beat third-seeded compatriot Gawan Briars 9-5, 7-9, 9-3, 9-4.

Norman meets Pakistan-born Hkdy Jahan of Britain, who eliminated Swedish qualifier Andres Walstedt, Wednesday's conqueror of fourth-seeded Australian Ross Thorne, 9-7, 6-9, 9-5, 2-9, 9-4.

Norman said he felt "reasonably happy" after his defeat of Soderberg. "I felt like I was in control," he said.

He was confident about his prospective match against Jahan. "I haven't lost to him for the last three or four times I've played him," he said.

Davenport, who was taken to five games by Australian Dean Williams in his opening match, said: "It was better than I have done for a while. I was pleased. I think I played well. It's been a while coming."

Defending women's champion Sue Devoy of New Zealand took her appointed place in the semi-finals with a straight-games win over Australian Tracy Smith.

But Britain's Lisa Opie, runner-up to Devoy last year, was beaten by Australia's Liz Irving, who finished in devastating style after losing the first two games.

Two of Opie's British teammates were happier with their day. Martine Le Moignan and Heather Wallace gaining their places in the semi-finals.

Rossi is Italy's question mark

By Clare Fallon
Reuter

ROME — As Italy approaches the task of defending the World Cup, the most urgent question on the minds of Italian soccer fans concerns national hero Paolo Rossi.

While other World Cup veterans like winger Bruno Conti and sweeper Antonio Cabrini are virtually guaranteed places in the squad that manager Enzo Bearzot is due to name next month, a crop of injuries has kept Rossi out of international soccer this season and his place in this year's finals is not yet certain.

Italy's soccer-crazy public would certainly regard as ill-fated any mission to Mexico which did not include the star centre-forward. Fortunately for them, Bearzot has always kept faith with the player he called up at the last minute for the 1978 World Cup in Argentina.

Bearzot, preparing for a record third World Cup as Italian manager, is expected to build his 22-man squad around several key players who helped bring home the trophy from Spain four years ago.

Rossi, now 29, took much of the credit for that win. He became the top scorer of the 1982 competition with a hat-trick against Brazil in the second round, scored both goals against Poland in the semi-finals and the opener in their 3-1 defeat of West Germany in the final.

Since he helped Italian league side Vicenza win promotion to the First Division in 1977, Rossi's career has been a chronicle of high and low points.

A player of exceptional tactical intelligence, Rossi broke into top class soccer at the relatively late age of 20 after three carillage operations had forced him into long

periods of inactivity. Discovered for Vicenza by club official Giuseppe Farina, it was to Farina, by then president of Milan, that he returned this season after a subdued four years with Juventus in the shadow of France's Michel Platini.

Rossi caught Bearzot's eye late in 1977 when Vicenza were challenging Juventus for the league title. His first two caps were followed by a summons to join the national team travelling to Argentina for the 1978 World Cup.

Rossi's rise in Argentina, where Italy finished fourth, was both unexpected and meteoric. He proved a fast, opportunistic player who gave a boost to the squad and scored three times.

"Pablito," as the admiring Argentine crowd nicknamed him, returned to Italy a hero but less than two years later was embroiled in a national betting scandal which rocked Italian soccer.

The Italian Football Federation suspended Rossi for two years after he was accused, with nearly 40 other players and officials, of accepting bribes from two illegal bookmakers to fix the results of key matches — charges which he has always denied.

A state court acquitted Rossi on similar charges and the promise of a contract with Juventus at the end of the federation suspension persuaded him to keep in shape. His performance in Spain proved that the long layoff had done nothing to blunt his form.

The Spanish finals also highlighted the talents of Cabrini and Conti, both now pillars of the national team and among Bearzot's first choices for Mexico. The pair, who are firm friends off the pitch, each scored one goal in Spain.

Cabrini, 28, has earned 61 caps since his first full international appearance in Italy's

opening game of the 1978 World Cup finals and has been captain four times.

Observers say he has not lost the excellent form he showed in Argentina and his calm, steady personality makes him a natural leader among the Italian defenders.

In 10 seasons with Juventus, Cabrini, who began his career with his local team Cremonese, has won every major soccer honour, including all three European Cups, the Supercup, the Intercontinental Cup, two Italian Cups and five league titles.

Conti did not make his international debut until the age of 25 in October 1980. But since then he has become the most capped player in his Roma club's history with 41 appearances.

Not a prolific scorer — he can count only five goals in those 41 games — Conti's reputation is based on his skill as a tireless and unselfish playmaker.

In the 1982 final he set up Italy's third goal for Sandro Altobelli.

Bearzot, who celebrated his 10th anniversary in charge of the national side last September, has been considering using younger players like forward Paolo Baldieri of Pisa and Milan sweeper Filippo Galli in Mexico but has said that a solid core of experienced players is needed to hold the squad together.

A former wing-half who played for 19 years and made one appearance for Italy, Bearzot, 58, has been in charge for more games than any other Italian team manager. His record is 51 wins, 27 draws and 25 defeats.

Mexico may be his last fling as manager of the national side. His contract expires after the World Cup and he has said he may consider trying his luck with a club.

Everton below strength for Luton

LONDON (R) — Everton's famous piece of silverware to Manchester United.

Manager Howard Kendall looks likely to call on utility man Alan Harper to help plug the gaps at the back as Everton, six points clear of United at the top of the First Division, bid for their third successive F.A. Cup final appearance.

"I won't make any decisions until we know how Gary is," said Kendall, who has Derek Mountfield just returning to match fitness after missing the whole season.

"We may have to reshuffle but we are a little short of numbers."

The game is a rematch of last season's enthralling semi-final which Everton won 2-1 in extra time after Luton had led for most of the tie.

Luton expect to field the team which overran Arsenal 3-0 in their fifth round second replay on Wednesday, with Andy King likely to face his former club.

Southampton and Second Division Brighton clash in the only other quarter-final tie taking place, although Watford and Bury meet in a fifth round replay.

Brighton, finalists in 1983, will

be boosted by the return of former Aston Villa star Dennis Mortimer.

Southampton's England defender Mark Wright is also expected to play after being slightly concussed in Wednesday's fifth round replay win over Millwall and will be eager to impress to strengthen his claim for a World Cup place.

Senegal tops Egypt, 1-0

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Senegal surprised Egypt 1-0 on Friday in the opening game of the African Cup of Nations Soccer Championships as the Egyptians wasted several scoring chances.

The score at halftime was 0-0. Before a crowd of 35,000 plus 5,000 spectators from the armed forces in a stadium built for 100,000, the Egyptian team again proved its inefficiency. It created several good scoring opportunities but never managed to push the ball past Senegal's excellent goalkeeper, Sheikh Seck.

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Minister of Youth.

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THE PRIZE OF PERIL
(Colour)

Peres alters strategy to prop up debt-plagued enterprises in Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres pushed ahead Thursday with plans to rescue debt-plagued Israeli firms despite mounting criticism of his sudden switch in economic strategy.

After imposing tough austerity measures for the past year, the Labour Party leader has angered right-wing coalition partners by urging that money be pumped into several ailing enterprises to stem unemployment.

He discussed his rescue plan Thursday with two of the most hard-pressed organisations, the Kupat Holim Health Fund and the Solel Boneh construction firm, which have combined debts of more than half a billion dollars.

Right-wing Likud bloc ministers have charged that Mr. Peres' aim is to help Labour Party-affiliated organisations before losing the premiership. Next October he is due to switch posts with Likud Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir under a rotation agreement.

Mr. Peres wants to form and head a ministerial committee on economic growth. The move is

opposed by Likud Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai who views it as a Labour Party attempt to control the economy after the rotation.

"Modai is not against economic growth. He believes it must be step by step, and not now, when we don't have the resources for it," a Modai aide told Reuters.

Wednesday night, Mr. Peres defended plans to rescue Kupat Holim and Solel Boneh, which are owned by the Histadrut Trade Union Federation, and the private Elscint Medical Equipment Company.

"What are we to say to these people... wait a few years? Must we wait until more people are unemployed to help? Economic growth takes a few years. We must start now to assure the future," he told state television.

Mr. Peres' new strategy has been criticised by economists who fear it will boost inflation and budget overspending.

"If the government starts pouring out money there will be only nominal growth. It should decrease its involvement, lower in-

terest rates and taxes if it wants to prompt real growth," said Hebrew University economist, Mr. Gur Ofer.

"Israel is now using the meagre investment resources at its disposal not for growth but for propping up tottering enterprises," wrote Jerusalem Post economic editor Mr. Shlomo Maoz.

"While the rest of the world has started to invest in the future, Israel is still investing in the past," he said.

Several Israeli companies, including the largest private building developer Klarin, and textile manufacturer Ata, went bankrupt in 1985. Plans to sell Ata to new investors failed because of disagreement within the government about how much money it should invest and no attempt has been made to rescue Klarin.

Another company in trouble is Zim, the national shipping line. A company source, demanding anonymity, said the Israel Corporation, a holding company which owns 50 per cent of Zim, has decided to give the government its shares on condition the government takes over \$30 million of debt guarantees.

Tin crisis rescue plan collapses

LONDON (R) — A rescue plan aimed at solving a four-month crisis which has brought world tin trade to a near-standstill collapsed Thursday when it failed to win unanimous support from the International Tin Council (ITC), a leading banker said.

Mr. Peter Graham, chairman of a group of 11 ITC creditor banks, said the council had told him it would not collectively agree on the rescue, under which a company, Tinco, was to be set up to buy surplus tin and sell it gradually over four years to avert a collapse in world prices.

The London Metal Exchange (LME), the world's leading tin market, suspended trading in the metal on Oct. 24 after the ITC said it had run out of money to support prices in a glutted market by stockpiling surplus supplies.

Delegates said Thailand and Indonesia, two of the world's leading producers, have effectively blocked the rescue.

Banking and trade sources said that there was now a serious danger that banks holding ITC tin as security for loans would try to sell it quickly, driving prices lower and making the rescue plan impossible.

"Under these circumstances, and there being no alternative plan available, I have informed the ITC and the London Metal Exchange that the banks now consider themselves free to act in their own best interests," Mr. Graham said.

Bankers and brokers had extended a deadline for agreement on the plan by 24 hours to midnight Thursday but threatened to start selling 50,000 tonnes of stockpiled tin which they hold as security for loans should the plan fail.

Under the rescue package, ITC member governments, bankers and brokers would have provided \$270 million (\$390 million in risk capital for Tinco to buy up 80,000 tonnes of tin stockpiled by the

council. Proceeds from Tinco would have paid off ITC debts to bankers and brokers.

Indonesia said it rejected the plan in principle because it did not give enough guarantees against overproduction and a price collapse. Jakarta wants surplus tin to be released over a longer period and it opposes export curbs, saying they would encourage non-ITC members to sell huge stocks of the metal.

This would send prices tumbling from \$1,440 (\$11,800) a tonne when LME tin business was suspended.

Thai delegate, Mr. Weerawit Weeraworavit, earlier said his country would not decide whether to back the plan until a cabinet meeting next Monday, Thailand, which has been asked to contribute \$12.5 million (\$18 million) to the package, said it could not shoulder the burden because of its growing budget deficit.

6,000 TWA flight attendants strike

WASHINGTON (R) — Six thousand Trans World Airlines (TWA) flight attendants went on strike Friday, setting up picket lines at airports across the United States as talks on management demands for cuts in their wages broke down, a union spokesman said.

Union and management negotiators continued bargaining for almost an hour after the midnight deadline, but the talks stalled, a spokesman, Mr. Michael Perry, said.

No further meetings between the two sides have been scheduled, Mr. Perry said.

TWA, the fourth largest U.S. airline in terms of passenger miles flown, vowed to continue service despite the strike.

In a statement issued from its headquarters in New York just after the stoppage, TWA said it would maintain some flights to all its U.S. cities and 23 foreign cities, with the exceptions of Barcelona, Copenhagen, Tel Aviv,

and Athens.

TWA, which was taken over last year by Wall Street financier, Mr. Carl Icahn, has been training replacements who could be called in to try to break the strike and has warned its flight attendants that they faced dismissal if they went on strike.

The airline, which lost \$193 million last year, was demanding a 22 per cent wage cut from the flight attendants and changes in work rules aimed at saving \$88 million.

The International Federation of Flight attendants offered a 15 per cent wage cut, which it said would save the company \$30 million a year.

Tokyo, Bonn lower key interest rates

TOKYO (R) — Japan Friday joined West Germany in lowering interest rates, a move that put pressure on the United States to join their bid to boost the world economy.

The Bank of Japan said its discount rate — the fee it charges when lending to commercial banks — would drop to four per cent on Monday.

The present rate of 4.5 per cent had been in force since Jan. 30.

West Germany's Central Bank, the Bundesbank, Thursday announced it was lowering its discount rate to 3.5 per cent from four per cent and was quickly followed by France and The Netherlands.

The moves should result in cheaper loans for both companies planning to invest in new plants and families hoping to buy anything from a new car to a home appliance — in turn boosting demand for Third World commodities as well as easing debt repayments by developing nations.

The Japanese cut, the second in just over a month, brings the discount rate to its lowest level since March 1978.

Bank Governor Satoshi Sumita said the reduction was designed to help prevent excessive swings in currency rates, strengthen domestic demand and help reduce Japan's massive trade surplus with the rest of the world.

West Germany and Japan set the scene for a cut by the U.S. central bank, the Federal Reserve (Fed). But Fed Chairman Paul Volcker has been reluctant to sanction a reduction because he feared it would trigger a free-fall in the dollar, which would push up U.S. inflation by boosting prices for imported goods.

West Germany and Japan have now reduced their currencies' appeal to international investors, and provided Mr. Volcker with room to manoeuvre, analysts said.

A U.S. cut would give much-needed relief to the Third World, where loans largely are tied to American rates.

It would help head off attempts by militants such as Peru to convince Third World debtors to unite against their industrialised creditors.

Japan's reduction will help boost a domestic economy buckling under the 25 per cent jump in the yen's value against the dollar over the last six months, analysts said.

The stronger yen has hurt hit Japan's exporters, forcing them to raise prices and lose sales in the United States.

But economists said another rate cut and higher government spending would be needed soon to offset the higher yen.

The stock exchange meanwhile was driven into a frenzy by expectations of the cut — announced after trading ended — and market average passed 14,000 for the first time.

After hitting 14,011.68, the average slipped slightly to end 93.07 up at 13,994.63, above Thursday's record close of 13,901.56.

Turnover was a heavy 700 million shares against 600 million on Thursday.

The currency market had anticipated the Japanese cut and the dollar closed little changed in Tokyo at 179.63 yen against 179.55 in New York. 2.2393 West German marks against 2.2433 and 1.8965 Swiss francs against 1.89450.

The British pound was worth \$1.4408 compared with 1.4410 in New York.

Third World to push for monetary conference

Meanwhile, developing nations will push for an international monetary conference to include three basic themes — debt, political transfers and monetary reform — Argentine Economy Min-

ister Juan Sourrouille said Thursday night.

He said the Group of 24 (G-24) developing nations proposes, as a first step, setting up a sub-committee within the context of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to prepare for the talks.

"Effective reform of the international monetary system should be discussed in the context of a conference in which debt and the flow of funds to developing nations must be included," he said after a meeting of finance ministers and senior officials from the G-24 in Buenos Aires Thursday.

The meeting was held to prepare the G-24 position for April's Interim Committee meeting of the IMF and to update the group's report on monetary reform last August.

The final ministerial communiqué said that while industrial nations have recognised the political nature of debt problems and the need for growth, the U.S.-sponsored Baker plan is insufficient to deal with recent plunges in oil and commodity income in developing countries.

Mr. Sourrouille said that not only is the \$20 billion in additional Baker plan lending not enough but that the G-24 is concerned over a continuing short-term approach by Western nations and

excessive conditionality attached to lending.

"Adjusting our economies in present unstable economic conditions is illogical. We must look at long-term solutions," he said.

The G-24 also endorsed an Argentine proposal for setting differential interest rates for old and new debt to offset the present high level of real interest rates.

Mr. Sourrouille said that while present trends towards lower inflation should lead to lower rates, the time lag has meant a continuing high cost to debtors in real terms.

He said Argentina would define what portion of its debts it would target for lower rates when it meets in April with banks to discuss rescheduling payments for 1986 and beyond.

This proposal would also be promoted by the G-24 in the new subcommittee of the interim and development committees, which would be set up with ministerial representation from industrial and developing nations.

The G-24 noted that its report on monetary reform and another by the Group of 10 (G-10) industrial nations were being discussed by the IMF board but that differences still existed on including debt and capital transfers on the agenda.

Sudan orders expatriates to remit annual earnings

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — The government has ordered Sudanese workers abroad to remit between \$500 and \$3,000 of their earnings annually. As Sabafa newspaper reported Thursday.

The order appeared aimed at generating currency for the cash-strapped government from more than one million Sudanese working abroad, mainly in Saudi Arabia and Libya.

As Sabafa quoted expatriate affairs secretary, Mr. Rabie Omar Bashir as saying each expatriate should commit himself to an annual compulsory remittance.

Labourers would be required to remit at least \$500 a year, office workers \$1,000, professionals or university professors \$2,000 and businessmen \$3,000, he said.

The dollars would be converted at the free market rate of 4.25 Sudanese pounds to the dollar, he added.

As an incentive, expatriate workers would get customs duty exemptions on goods brought into the country in line with the size of their remittances, the newspaper quoted him as saying.

Sudan has mounted a big drive to divert foreign currency away from the black market, which central bank governor, Mr. Ismail Al Malki has estimated absorbs \$1.3 billion a year compared with only \$400 million reaching official banks.

Arab funds to join efforts to revive ailing economy

Meanwhile, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development are to join international efforts to help revive Sudan's ailing economy.

Experts from the two institutions will attend a conference here on Saturday with international and regional financing institutions, to seek ways of aiding the country.

They will also discuss papers on various economic proposals, together with recommendations made by conferences held here last month.

Egypt cuts oil prices by \$5

CAIRO (R) — Egypt Thursday slashed its oil prices for the fourth time this year to maintain the competitiveness of its crude exports in a crumbling world oil market.

The benchmark Suez blend and similar quality Ras Bahar grade were cut by \$5 to \$14 a barrel, effective from March 1, an Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) official told Reuters.

The heavier Belayim and Budran grades were cut by \$4.75 and \$4.70 respectively to \$13.25 and \$13.10 and the cheapest crude, Ras Gharib, by \$4.40 to \$12.10 a barrel.

Study proposes creating artificial Islamic dinar to promote trade ties

ANKARA (R) — Creation of an artificial currency, the Islamic dinar, is among proposals for an Islamic trade financing corporation to promote commercial cooperation among Muslim states, an Islamic bank study said.

The corporation, due to be discussed by trade ministers of the Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) in Istanbul between March 14 and 16, would finance non-traditional exports of the 42-member states, especially among themselves.

An Islamic Development Bank (IDB) study on the scheme says the aim is to boost trade among ICO members faced with tariff and non-tariff trade barriers erected by industrial countries.

Non-traditional exports are defined as those representing an average of not more than 10 per cent

of a country's exports over the preceding three years.

Primary products would qualify for 18- to 30-month credits, intermediate goods 30 to 42 months and capital goods 42 to 60 months, the study added.

It said transactions must conform to Sharia (Islamic) law and gave as illustrations, Al Murabahah, forward sale with a profit mark-up, and Al Ijara, involving leasing.

Draft articles of agreement for the corporation, made available to Reuters, say it would have authorised capital stock of a billion Islamic dinars, equivalent to \$1.16 billion.

The Islamic dinars will be equivalent in value to the International Monetary Fund's Special Drawing Right (SDR).

The amount would be divided

into 100,000 shares of 10,000 Islamic dinars each to be subscribed by ICO members who chose to join, with a minimum of 300 each and the IDB taking 500.

The corporation would have its headquarters with the IDB in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and its governors would be the same member-state delegates. But the institutions would be financially separate.

The IDB already has a short-term trade financing function and covers member states' traditional exports.

As well as subscriptions to capital stock of the corporation, its resources would be deposits, funds from its operations and what are termed "the issuing of financial instruments consistent with the principles of the Sharia."

Panel defeats Reagan's '87 budget

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's embattled month-old budget proposal was soundly defeated Thursday by the Senate Budget Committee, which is controlled by fellow Republicans.

The committee voted 16 to six to shelve the \$994 billion spending plan for 1987. Most members of Congress said the plan was dead on arrival in Congress.

Republican loyalists who supported the president accused opponents of "president bashing" by forcing a vote and the budget's defeat.

The committee now plans to start drafting its own alternative

budget for senate action.

Similarly, House of Representatives budget committee chairman Mr. William Gray, an opposition Democrat, told the House Thursday Mr. Reagan's budget would be voted on and defeated as expected before it writes an alternative budget plan.

Mr. Reagan's budget has been attacked by both Democrats and Republicans who assailed its politically unpopular programme cuts as unrealistic and unacceptable.

Many of Mr. Reagan's budget plans cut into education, job training and nutrition aid, which are liked by a Congress facing elec-

tions.

The entire Democratic-controlled House and 34 of the 100 seats in the Republican-led Senate will be decided in the Nov. 4 national elections.

The house had earlier voted overwhelmingly to slash funds for agricultural export programmes that had been widely condemned by other food-exporting nations.

Congress acted to halve a \$2 billion budget over the next three years for the export enhancement programme, a scheme that subsidises U.S. agricultural products sold abroad.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SAT., MARCH 8, 1986
GENERAL TENDENCIES: One of your best days in a long while to be off and doing whatever attracts and appeals to you, especially that which is of a current nature. Think in terms of larger outlets.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be off early with pals who are dynamic and you can gain a great deal that is worthwhile today. Go along with their good ideas.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get out in public early and show your finest capabilities to all you encounter and gain added prestige. Be sure of yourself.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Study into new interests now and take on the very best of such so that the future can be much brighter for you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Add new zest in your relationship with those you love the most and make the future more electrifying.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Make it a point today to get in touch with those who are successful in lines different from your own and learn a great deal.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Add something new to regular routines and you can gain greater benefits from them. Co-workers have clever ideas.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get your shopping and other duties handled early so that you have plenty of time left to socialize.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be with friends who are doers and can express themselves very well and you benefit from their association.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Look into all kinds of mechanisms that could be useful to you and make your life easier.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Study your possessions and you know how to increase their value and make them more beautiful also.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have unusual ways of getting ahead faster, so utilize them now. Listen to associates' ideas carefully.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) During spare time, get new ideas which you can test on others, but say nothing about them first. Relax at home tonight.

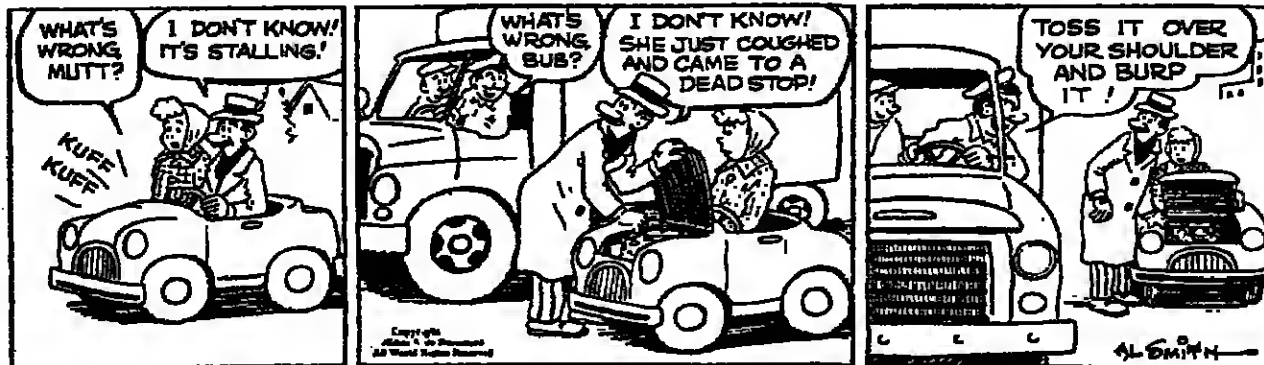
IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will easily comprehend what is going on in the world and what is motivating those around him or her, so give as much leeway as you can with only gentle discipline and plenty of activity since there is much talent here.

Crosswords not received

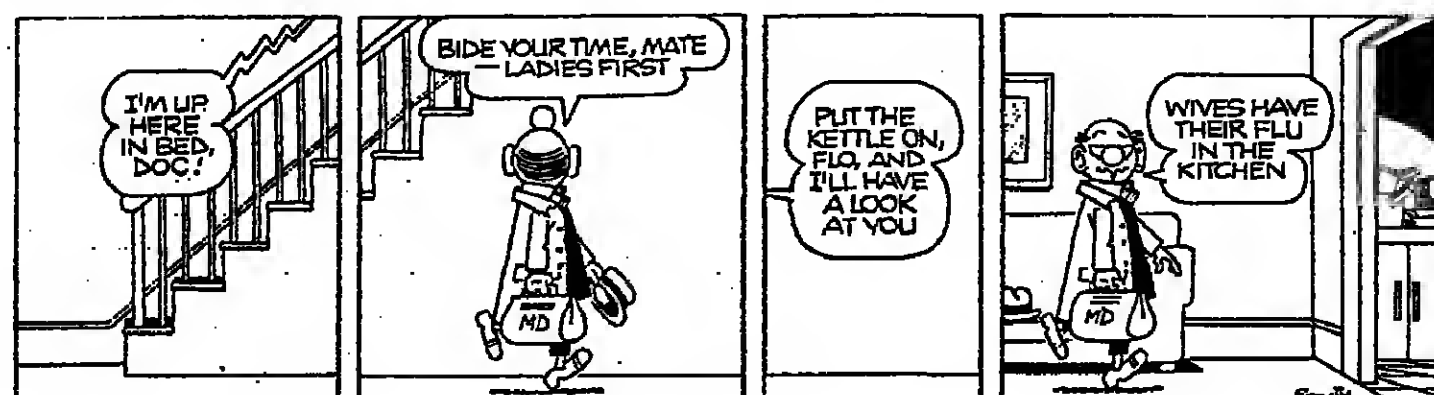
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



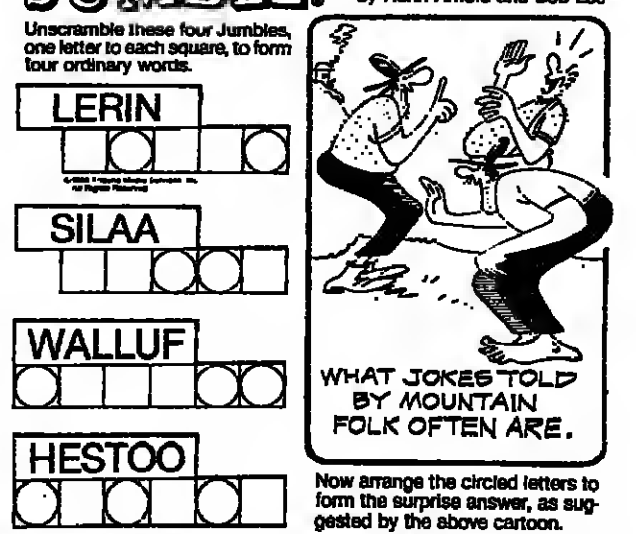
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Yesterday's Jumbles: BILGE FINAL: PUSHER INHALE
Answer: He stooped low because he's anxious to do this—RISE HIGH

Dobrynin enters Kremlin ranks

Gorbachev speech ends 27th party congress

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev has brought new faces into a reshaped Soviet leadership, including the veteran Ambassador to Washington Anatoly Dobrynin, and a woman trade union official.

In a closing speech to a landmark Soviet Communist Party Congress Thursday, Mr. Gorbachev put the accent on renewal. He also included criticisms of the United States but said Moscow would not be provoked into entering a course of confrontation.

"Regrettably, there are still those in the international community who lay claims to some special, custom-made security," Mr. Gorbachev said. "This is evidenced by the frame of mind in Washington."

The 27th congress elected a 307-member policy-making Central Committee, including 136 new faces, and this in turn made three appointments to the ruling politburo and five to the committee's powerful secretariat, which runs the party machinery.

Mr. Dobrynin, 66, Washington envoy for 24 years, entered the secretariat. So did Alexandra Birukova, 57, the first woman to fill

such a high post since 1961. But there were only about a dozen women elected to the Central Committee.

There was no word on who would replace Mr. Dobrynin in the United States. As the Soviet Union's top diplomatic post, it would almost certainly have to go to a Central Committee member and a man knowledgeable about American affairs.

Kremlin Spokesman Leonid Zamyatin said Mr. Dobrynin would be difficult but not impossible to replace. The State Department in Washington paid an unusual public compliment by praising his "long and distinguished career."

Western diplomats said Mr. Dobrynin appeared certain to head the party's influential International Department, whose long-time chief Boris Ponomarev stepped down as a non-voting politburo member at the

congress.

The number of voting politburo members rose to 12 with the promotion of Lev Zaikov, 62, who joined Mr. Gorbachev and ideology chief Yegor Ligachev as the only man to combine a full politburo place with a Central Committee secretaryship.

Mr. Zaikov has economic responsibilities and has risen rapidly in the last few years. He was not even a Central Committee member until 1981. Diplomats said he appeared to have been a protégé of the late President Yuri Andropov.

Mr. Zaikov's successor as Leninist party chief, Yuri Solov'yov, 61, and the Byelorussian party leader, Nikolai Slyunkov, 57, were made two of the politburo's seven non-voting members, replacing Ponomarev and Vice-President Vasily Kuznetsov.

Party Administration Chief Georgy Razumovsky, 50, propaganda chief Alexander Yakovlev, 62, and an academic scientist, Vadim Medvedev, 57, entered the secretariat, which now has 11 members.

In the Central Committee, diplomats were intrigued to see that

Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, who was dropped as chief of staff of the armed forces in 1984, retained his seat.

An elder statesman to retain a committee seat after quitting his job was veteran Navy Commander Sergei Gorshkov. He was joined by his successor Vladimir Chernavin.

Valentina Tereshkova, the first female cosmonaut and head of the State Women's Committee, became one of a handful of women committee members.

But Yuri Brezhnev, who rose to a first deputy foreign trade minister under his father, lost his Central Committee candidate's seat.

In his speech, Mr. Gorbachev stressed the themes of renewal and a war on idleness, arrogance and corruption. He vowed to wipe out "parochialism, paper-shuffling and other bureaucratic obstacles."

The congress also approved a five-year economic plan, guidelines for economic development up to the year 2000 and a long-term ideological blueprint. Revised internal party rules are also due to be published.

16 NATO soldiers die after Norwegian avalanche

NARVIK, Norway (R) — A total of 16 Norwegian soldiers taking part in NATO exercises are believed to have perished after an avalanche near this Arctic city, a NATO spokesman said Friday.

Thirteen bodies have been recovered from under the snow in the valley Vassdalen since the avalanche on Wednesday, and three more soldiers are presumed dead, still buried under at least three metres of snow, he told Reuters.

A military inquiry has been launched into the accident after some of the 12 soldiers who were dug out of the snow said they were ordered into the narrow-sided valley despite having seen two avalanches in the same spot on the same day.

Norwegian newspapers accused military commanders of sending the company of troops into Vassdalen despite avalanche warnings. One local resident said: "Sending those boys in there was genocide."

Three members of the company of 31 escaped uninjured, while the 12 rescued alive suffered minor injuries. The death toll was the highest in a military accident in Norway since World War II.

The NATO spokesman said the search for the remaining soldiers had been scaled down overnight because of atrocious weather.

Rescuers used dogs trained to sniff out avalanche victims during Thursday's search but only three dead soldiers were recovered. Surviving for more than a few hours under the snow was virtually impossible, NATO officials said.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) called off the multi-million-dollar "Anchor Express" winter exercise because the avalanche danger was still great.

The exercise, involving 20,000 troops from eight NATO nations, had been planned for two years and was designed to test the Western alliance's ability to protect NATO's northern flank against surprise attack.

The NATO spokesman said British and Dutch forces would stage a limited naval landing in northern Norway in the next two days, and U.S., Canadian, Italian, West German and Luxembourg troops would join Norwegians in a downgraded exercise on land.

A spokesman for Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) said in Brussels that NATO must continue to hold exercises in Arctic weather conditions despite the disaster.

Norway is a member of NATO but refuses to accept permanently-based foreign troops on its soil. NATO has worked out a complex plan of reinforcements for times of crisis, and the exercises simulate a landing of such reinforcements.

The Soviet embassy said in a statement Friday that preliminary contracts had been let for the removal of oil from the ship's bunkers but the fate of the liner itself would be decided in Moscow.

Although the loss of the ship and a crewman were said "the joint efforts of the Soviet seamen and New Zealanders have helped avert a greater disaster," it added.

Hugh Jones, the head of the Transport Ministry's Marine Division, said in a statement that Jamison would not be prosecuted by the government.

The pilot had "done the honourable thing" by voluntarily giving up his licence and the investigation was closed, he said.

The conservative Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) which backs Mr. Waldheim has come out

New Delhi imposes direct rule on Kashmir

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — The federal government Friday imposed direct rule on Kashmir after the worst anti-Hindu riots there since Indian independence in 1947.

The decision followed demands in the federal parliament and in the national press for the dismissal of the Kashmir government, headed by Chief Minister Ghulam Mohammad Shah.

Federal authorities blamed the state government for failing to act against the rioting in the past two weeks. Kashmir police accused pro-Pakistan Muslim secessionists for the violence.

Night curfews and shoot-on-sight orders were in force in half a dozen towns in the Himalayan state. Newspaper reported that 43 Hindu temples were burned or damaged, many Hindu homes and shops attacked and Hindus were beaten up.

Kashmir is a disputed territory over which India and Pakistan have fought wars in 1948 and 1965. India controls two-thirds of Kashmir, including the scenic valley, while the rest is controlled by Pakistan.

Shah's government had been in office since 1984 with the support of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party.

Mr. Gandhi's cabinet dismissed the state government after

the Congress Party's leader in Kashmir withdrew his support for Mr. Shah, reducing Shah's group to a tiny minority in the state assembly.

In New Delhi, Mr. Shah had pleaded unsuccessfully with Mr. Gandhi not to dismiss his government. Shah was later flown back to Kashmir in a plane owned by the Border Security Force.

On Wednesday President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq said Pakistan's main dispute with neighbouring India was over the Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir.

But he said Pakistan wanted a peaceful solution of the issue, over which the two countries have fought two of three wars between them since their independence in 1947.

"If war could be a solution, the issue would have been solved much earlier," Gen. Zia said at a dinner given by Pakistan-administered Kashmir President Sardar Abdul Qayyum.

Foreign Minister Sahazada Yaqub Khan Wednesday also rejected Indian claims to a disputed glacier in northern Kashmir.

The defence secretaries of the two governments met here in January to seek a peaceful settlement of the dispute on the Siachen Glacier where their troops have clashed in the past two years, and another meeting is due in April.

Punjab attack claims 7 lives

CHANDIGARH, India (AP) — One more victim of a terrorist attack died in hospital Friday, raising the death toll to seven in a failed attempt to kill a moderate Sikh leader, police said.

Another 13 people were wounded in the hail of machine-gun fire during the Thursday attack in Punjab state, police said.

Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala, president of the

Sikh moderate Akali Dal Party, expressed shock over the incident.

Opposition deputies walked out of the state legislature in Chandigarh Friday after the chairman refused to admit a motion seeking to censure Mr. Barnala's 4-month-old government.

The deputies claimed that law and order had broken down in Punjab, home of India's 1.3 million-member Sikh sect.

Austrian leader warns against 'opening political graves'

VIENNA (R) — Austrian President Rudolf Kirchschlaeger has stepped into the controversy over the alleged Nazi past of former United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim, one of the men bidding to succeed him, and has warned against "opening political graves."

Mr. Kirchschlaeger, 70, who steps down as Austria's president after two terms in office, appealed for calm in the furor surrounding Mr. Waldheim, whom he succeeded as foreign minister in 1970, and who is one of the top two candidates for the presidency in elections on May 4.

Speaking at a ceremony to celebrate World Freedom Day at Vienna's United Nations City Thursday night, Mr. Kirchschlaeger said, without directly mentioning the debate about Mr. Waldheim's past, that people should not succumb to sensationalism.

"Should we not fear that we might open political graves which can only be covered up again at great expense if at all, when we have to stand together again," he said.

The New York Times reported on Tuesday that Mr. Waldheim, U.N. chief from 1972 to 1982, had belonged to the Nazi brownshirts and the Nazi student organisation after Hitler annexed Austria in 1938, and was later in a military unit that had committed atrocities in Greece and Yugoslavia.

Mr. Waldheim, 67, has emphatically denied membership in any Nazi group and said he was unaware of any atrocities while serving as a junior staff officer under Gen. Alexander Loehr, who was executed for war crimes in 1947.

The conservative Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) which backs Mr. Waldheim has come out

in full support of their candidate and says he was fully cleared of any Nazi complicity in investigations into his past 40 years ago when he applied for, and obtained, a job in the Foreign Ministry.

An ÖVP spokesman said the entire campaign had been orchestrated to discredit Mr. Waldheim's bid for the presidency and accused the ruling Socialist Party of implication in passing documents about Mr. Waldheim to the New York Times and the World Jewish Congress (WJC).

The Socialists have denied the accusations. Their candidate for the presidency, former Health Minister Kurt Steyrer, said he was convinced Mr. Waldheim would be able to clear up "current misunderstandings."

Last Sunday the WJC released documents on Mr. Waldheim's alleged Nazi past and its General Secretary Israel Singer said in New York Thursday the Israeli government had pledged to assist the WJC in its probe of Mr. Waldheim's wartime activities.

On Thursday the Yugoslav daily Vjesnik said documents recently unearthed in war archives in Croatia showed that Mr. Waldheim had been a member of German units taking part in operations against partisans and had been awarded a high decoration for his services.

Mr. Waldheim has denied he took an active part in fighting, citing a previous wound, and said the decoration, "King Zvonimir's Crown with Oak Branches," was routinely awarded to all staff officers.

The controversy over Mr. Waldheim has so far been making comparatively small waves in Austria and Mr. Waldheim himself is continuing his electioneering tour of Austria's provinces in Styria.

Column 8

Pregnant woman saves 2 children before bearing her own

SINGAPORE (R) — A pregnant woman snatched two children from their blazing home and then gave birth to her own child just a few hours later, Singapore police said Friday. Leuchmi Marmuthu, 27, a ex-nurse, was rushed to hospital after grabbing her cousin sleeping two-year-old son and four-year-old daughter as flames raged through their old house. She now has a 3.3 kilogramme son.

Iranian brings 12 years old bride into Britain

LONDON (R) — British police has said they were investigating whether an Iranian student who brought his 12-year-old bride to Britain was violating laws forbidding sexual intercourse with a minor. The girl, Elham Bahmani, is going to school in the northern city of Manchester, where she is living with her 27-year-old husband, Mohsen Nikbakh. Conservative parliamentarian Geoffrey Dickens, who campaigns against child abuse, has called on the government to prosecute Nikbakh for a "monstrous violation of our laws to protect children." He has also tabled questions in parliament asking the government why the girl was admitted to Britain, where sex is illegal under the age of 16. Home Office Junior Minister David Waddington said in a television interview the government would work to "change immigration rules 'right now'" to stop the admission of child brides into Britain.

Mummy sent by post to German magazine

MUNICH, West Germany (R) — A West German magazine has received an ancient Inca mummy through the post along with a plea to ease poverty in Peru, police have said. The mummy arrived in a brown cardboard box at the offices of the Bunte weekly on Monday in this south German city. "When I saw the box, I laughed and said: 'I bet there's a body in there,'" Bunte journalist Beate Wödekind told Reuters. Police declined to identify the sender but confirmed there was an accompanying letter saying he had been to Peru and had been moved by the poverty there to seek help. Archaeologists were examining the mummy to determine its age, the police spokesman said. He was unable to say whether it would be returned to South America. The mummy had been sent to the man by friends in Peru. "We are investigating whether it is a criminal offence to import a mummy into West Germany," he said.

India opens first AIDS clinic

BOMBAY, India (R) — India, which has yet to register its first case on AIDS, has opened its first clinic for the detection of the deadly disease. The clinic at Jamshedji Jeejeebhoy Hospital here has been set up by the private Indian Health Organisation (IHO) in collaboration with the Maharashtra state government. "We certainly cannot escape from AIDS. There are reasons to believe that AIDS might have already made its entry into this country," I.S. Gilada, IHO secretary-general, told reporters. India officially has not so far reported a case of AIDS. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome — which saps the body's defences against disease. The clinic will screen blood from high-risk groups including homosexuals, prostitutes, haemophiliacs and intravenous drug abusers, and send the samples to the United States for testing, Gilada said.

Turkey passes anti-pornography law

ANKARA (R) — The Turkish Parliament has passed a bill to restrict the sale of publications found to be pornographic. Under the bill, a committee will decide whether a publication is fit for sale to those under 18, with conditions of the way it may be sold if it fails this test. The bill, which provides for maximum fines of 10 million Turkish liras (about \$16,000), has provoked strong media opposition which sees it as a form of censorship. It was drafted after the emergence late last year of three men's magazines depicting bare-breasted women. Some newspapers will also be affected by the law.

Duvalier arrives at new home in southern France

GRASSE, France (R) — Ousted Haitian dictator Jean Claude Duvalier arrived early Friday at his new residence, a luxury villa in the French perfume capital of Grasse, after driving through the night under heavy police escort from the Alpine lake resort of Talloires.

Duvalier, his wife Michelle and six relatives arrived in a limousine and two minibuses shortly before 0800 GMT at the villa in an exclusive district of Grasse, which lies in the hills behind Nice on the Côte d'Azur.

Police guarding the villa, owned by Dutchman Hubertus Nijssen, said Duvalier was the subject of an assigned residence order — a legal move by the French authorities permitting him to live in a specified place but confining him within the region concerned, in this case the Alpes-Maritimes Department.

Seconds after the Duvalier cavalcade swept into the villa's high-walled grounds, police sealed off the area. Grasse, a tourist centre, lies on the Route De Napoleon, the road followed by the French emperor when he returned to France from exile in Elba.

The villa's owner, contacted by telephone, told Reuters: "They are very, very tired and they are going to sleep for a few hours."

Asked how long Duvalier and his relatives would stay, Nijssen said: "I don't know, the circumstances can change by the day."

He refused to disclose under what terms he had rented the property, but said he had been annoyed by the presence of some 25 plain-clothed policemen he said were swarming over the place.

The two-hectare (five-acre) property comprises a 10-room main villa and two smaller houses. Behind the high walls lie two tennis courts and a swimming pool, according to Nijssen.

A spokesman for the Alpes-Maritimes Prefecture in Nice, which handles administrative matters for the area, said Duvalier was free to go where he liked within the department but said the ousted Haitian leader had been strongly advised not to do so.

Diplomatic sources said France's decision to assign Duvalier and his family to a residence indicated it was now resigned to Duvalier staying for an indeterminate period.

Police told Reuters special security forces would be posted Saturday within 15 kilometres around the state guest house where Mr. Li will stay during his three-day visit.

Opposition alliances linking 23 political parties have called the six-hour strike to protest against

U.S. panel approves \$4.3b anti-terrorism bill

WASHINGTON (R) — The Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives has approved a sweeping \$4.3 billion anti-terrorism bill.

The bill was designed to increase security at U.S. embassies abroad and curb exports to countries that the United States lists as "supporters of terrorism."

The bill, approved by a voice vote, reflects intense U.S. concern over terrorism and congressional determination to take steps against it.

It now goes to the full House for a vote, expected in two weeks. The bill incorporates many

Bangladesh clamps tight security for Chinese leader

DHAKA (R) — Tight security will surround Chinese President Li Xianmin when he arrives for an official visit to Bangladesh Saturday, the day the opposition has called a national strike against the government.

The government Friday banned all political meetings and processions along the route Mr. Li's motorcade will take.

Police told Reuters special security forces would be posted Saturday within 15 kilometres around the state guest house where Mr. Li will stay during his three-day visit.

Opposition alliances linking 23 political parties have called the six-hour strike to protest against

plans by President Hossain Mohammad Ershad to hold what they call "a doctored election" next month.

An opposition statement said the strike would not interfere with Mr. Li's visit because it would end 40 minutes before he is due to arrive.

Mr. Li starts a five-nation African and South Asian tour which will underline China's wish to foster ties with other developing countries.

He will visit Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Somalia and Madagascar as part of China's continuing drive to maintain a high profile in the Third World.

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plans by President Hossain Mohammad Ershad to hold what they call "a doctored election" next month.

Reagan aid for Contras in jeopardy after more Congress votes

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's \$100-million aid plan for Nicaraguan rebels is in serious jeopardy after a series of congressional votes and denunciations by lawmakers over alleged high-pressure tactics by the White House.

Despite signs his intense campaign was backing, Mr. Reagan showed no move to compromise and said he would soon employ a favourite strategy — a national television appearance to rally Americans to convince Congress to approve the package.

The House Appropriations and Foreign Affairs Committees Thursday brought to four the number of panels that have disapproved the proposal this week, while the House Armed Services Committee gave Mr. Reagan his only victory.

The committee actions, although only a test of sentiment, paved the way for a crucial vote of the full House of Representatives on March 19, which many congressional leaders believe Mr. Reagan will lose.

With this string of votes the momentum is clearly on the side of those who advocate a peaceful, economic and diplomatic solution to the very serious problems in the region," Democrat Vic Fazio of California said.

Mr. Reagan contends aid for the "Contra" rebels seeking to overthrow the leftist Sandinista government would prevent Communism from establishing a beachhead in Central America.

His proposal includes \$70 million in military assistance and \$30 million in aid for non-lethal materials, essentially doubling in one package the total amount of U.S. aid given the rebels since the programme started in 1981, congressional sources said.

It would also remove all restrictions on use of the funds, opening the door to renewed involvement by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and access to CIA covert accounts.

Congress cut off covert military aid in 1984 and last year approved \$27 million in assistance for non-lethal goods.

Democrats opposing Mr. Reagan's five-year-old programme of support for the rebels reject military aid and say it continues a failed policy of militarism over negotiation and puts the United States at odds with allies in the region.

But even Mr. Reagan's prospects in the Republican-led Senate dimmed Thursday when Nancy Kassebaum, Republican of Kansas, a respected moderate, sharply criticised the administration's "simplistic reasoning" as "highly offensive" and said she could not support the package.

"I believe a credible case can be made for providing some assistance to the resistance forces... (but) so far, that case has not been made," she said in a Senate speech.

It is expected that once the current plan is defeated, Mr. Reagan and Congress will compromise on an alternative aid package. Democrats and Republicans have already begun talks.

Mr. Reagan has personally invested heavily in pushing his package, asserting that Congress had

to make a choice between supporting him or the Communists in Latin America.

The flamboyant, often harsh rhetoric has inflamed many lawmakers, who insist they ought to be able to differ with the President and not have their patriotism questioned.

Democrat Michael Barnes of Maryland said accusations that members of Congress and others who opposed Mr. Reagan's policy were "Communist dupes" would be laughable if they didn't come from the president of the United States and his top advisers.

"These statements are the moral equivalent of McCarthyism," Barnes charged in a reference to the late red-hunting Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

In Capitol Hill meetings Thursday, Secretary of State George Shultz tried to calm incensed congressmen and ensure their patriotism was not being impugned.

Democrat Dan Glickman of Kansas told reporters later that Mr. Shultz "didn't exactly apologize for the attacks by Mr.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ KJ102 ♣ K76 ♢ AK5 ♣ AQ8
What is your opening bid?
- Q.2 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q765 ♣ 85 ♢ 832 ♣ AK82
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass 1 ♣ 1 NT Pass
What do you respond?
- Q.3 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 10985 ♣ A9 ♢ AJ1065 ♣ A4
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.4 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 94 ♣ Q76 ♢ QJ103 ♣ KJ82
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
3 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.5 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 6 ♣ AQ84 ♢ AJ83 ♣ 1092
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.6 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AK6 ♣ K95 ♢ 9 ♣ AK1092
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?